

Mustang Messenger

Volume 16 Issue 1

February 2025



Looking Towards the Future

Deanna Wiatt, Superintendent

Dear Melrose-Mindoro Community Members,

As we embrace the start of the new year, I want to thank all of you for your continued support and involvement in our school community. Your engagement makes our district a welcoming and nurturing place for our students to learn and grow.

A special thank you to everyone who took the time to fill out our recent referendum survey. Your input is invaluable and has affirmed that we are part of an incredibly supportive community. The results of the referendum survey were shared at the December's Board meeting. We had **717** responses, with **86%** being our residents and **62%** of respondents having school-aged children. Of the respondents, **85%** supported the district in continuing to search for grant opportunities. After reviewing the results and reading all of the survey comments, the district will move forward in asking for your support on April 1st for a \$1.2 million operating referendum. This operational referendum is critical in continuing to provide programming and services to our students.

In February and March, we will present at different village and town halls, and we will offer a morning and evening opportunity for anyone to come into the district to listen and ask questions. The location, dates, and times are listed later in this newsletter. Please plan to attend so we can answer any questions you may have to make your decision in April. Your opinions matter to us!

Reflecting back, 2024 brought some significant accidents involving some members of our community, staff, students, and their families. We are grateful for the new 45 mph signs in front of the school; however, these incidents serve as a stark reminder of the importance of being attentive as we travel. With winter weather upon us, road conditions can quickly become hazardous, so please take extra care and drive safely.

Thank you for your ongoing dedication to our district and for helping us build a strong, supportive network for our students. Let's make 2025 a year filled with success, safety, and shared accomplishments.

Warm regards,
Deanna Wiatt
Melrose-Mindoro Superintendent



New to the District or Have a New Family Member?

Have you recently moved into the district or have a new addition to your family? Please complete the **Census Data Collection** form at the back of this newsletter and return to the school. You may also email your information to mur-raym@mel-min.k12.wi.us. By doing so, you'll receive notices about upcoming early childhood screening and 4K registration dates, along with other important events.

Job Opportunities at the Pool

Enjoy being outdoors and having fun in the sun? Working at the Melrose Pool is the job for you! Lifeguards and water safety instructors are needed and training is provided. Please contact Clark Anderson by **April 1, 2025** at **Village of Melrose, PO BOX 117, Melrose, WI 54642**.

Regular Open Enrollment: February 3-April 30, 2025

The open enrollment application period for the 2025-2026 school year is February 3 - April 30, 2025 at 4:00p.m.

What is Open Enrollment? The inter-district public school open enrollment program allows parents to apply for their children to attend public school in a school district other than the one in which they reside.

Who can apply? Any Wisconsin resident in 4K to grade 12 may apply to attend a nonresident school district under the open enrollment program. However, a child may transfer to a nonresident school district for early childhood education or 4K only if the child's resident school district offers the same type of program and only if the child is eligible for that program in the resident school district.

When can parents apply? The regular open enrollment application period for the 2025-26 school year begins on February 3, 2025, and ends at 4:00 pm on April 30, 2025. The best way to apply is online. Additional information on the regular open enrollment application season can be found at <https://sms.dpi.wi.gov/OEParent>. An alternative application procedure allows pupils to apply for open enrollment at any time during a school year if certain criteria are met. For additional information, please visit <https://dpi.wi.gov/open-enrollment/applications/alternative>.

Can applications be denied? Both the nonresident and resident school districts may deny an application for reasons specified in state law. If an application is denied by either the resident or nonresident school district, the parent may file an appeal with the DPI within 30 days. The DPI is required to affirm the school district's decision unless the DPI determines that the decision was arbitrary or unreasonable. For more information regarding appealing a denial, visit <https://dpi.wi.gov/open-enrollment/appeals>.

How do students get to school? Parents are responsible to provide transportation to and from school in the non-resident school district, except that transportation required in a child's IEP must be provided by the nonresident school district. A nonresident or resident school district is permitted (but not required) to provide transportation to open enrolled pupils, however the nonresident school district is prohibited from picking up or dropping off a pupil within the boundaries of the pupil's resident school district unless the resident school district agrees. Low-income parents may apply to the DPI for reimbursement of a portion of their transportation costs. For more information on transportation, visit <https://dpi.wi.gov/open-enrollment/applications/transportation>.

4th Grade will host the annual WI Fair this spring on Friday, March 21, 2025 from 2-3:00 p.m. in the elementary gym. All are welcome!



Second Graders off to a Great Start!

2nd grade has been off to a great start this year! We have jumped right into our new English Language Arts curriculum, exploring new stories, places and ideas. We studied fairy tales from France, Germany and Denmark, as well as several classic American tall tales. We explored early Asian civilizations, focusing on ancient India and ancient China. As we wrap up our third unit focusing on ancient Greece, the students are getting excited to move into studying some of the ancient Greek myths. October was filled with fun fall activities, including a pumpkin hunt and crafts, Halloween parties and a parade. We also had an interesting visit from the author Mat Heagerty. We have been enjoying our new monthly tradition of Mustang family time where we meet with a small group of students from other grades to relax, chat, have a snack and do an activity together. 2024 came to a close with a picnic feast in the hallway with our first grade friends, lots of arts and crafts, storybook read alouds with special guest readers and celebrations all around. It has been a wonderful year so far and we are excited to see what 2025 will bring!



Consider Becoming a Host Family

Consider opening your home to a high school foreign exchange student in the 2025-2026 school year. Contact JH/HS Principal Rick Dobbs for information.

Winter Wellness Tips from Your School Nurse

During the winter months, it's essential to prioritize our health and well-being to ensure a happy and healthy season for everyone. Cold weather can bring unique challenges, but with a few proactive steps, we can all stay in top form. First and foremost, remember to dress warmly in layers to protect against the chill. Proper nutrition is also crucial; enjoy seasonal fruits and vegetables, and stay hydrated by drinking plenty of water. Don't forget the importance of regular exercise, even in colder temperatures—indoor activities like yoga or dance can keep you active. Additionally, practicing good hygiene, such as frequent hand washing, can help prevent the spread of winter illnesses. Lastly, ensure you're getting enough rest each night to support your immune system. Let's embrace the winter season with a focus on health and well-being, making it enjoyable and safe for all. Important health information will occasionally be available on our school website in the "Families" section under "Health Information". If you need to reach the nurse, feel free to email at nurse.mel-min.k12.wi.us or call 608-488-2201.

If your student will not be attending school, please notify the secretary by calling (608) 488-2201 or emailing attendance@mel-min.k12.wi.us with details about the absence and its reason. Additionally, be sure to inform your bus driver.

Winter Nosebleeds: Winter nosebleeds can be a common issue for children, primarily caused by dry air prevalent during the colder months. This dryness can lead to irritation and cracking of the delicate nasal membranes, making them more susceptible to bleeding. To help prevent and manage winter nosebleeds, consider using a humidifier in your child's room to add moisture to the air, which can help keep nasal passages hydrated. Additionally, applying a saline nasal spray or a gentle layer of petroleum jelly inside the nostrils can provide further moisture and protection. If nosebleeds persist or are severe, consulting a healthcare professional is advisable to rule out any underlying conditions or to discuss further treatment options.

Chilly Season Gloom: Winter months can pose unique challenges to mental health, often due to reduced sunlight, colder temperatures, and the tendency for people to spend more time indoors. This combination can contribute to feelings of isolation, sadness, and lethargy. To combat these effects, it's important to maintain a routine that includes regular physical activity, a balanced diet, and sufficient sleep. Exposure to natural light, whether through outdoor activities or light therapy, can also help alleviate symptoms. Staying socially connected with friends and family, pursuing hobbies, and practicing mindfulness techniques can further support mental well-being. If feelings of depression or anxiety become overwhelming, seeking professional help is a vital step towards improving mental health during the winter months.

TOO SICK FOR SCHOOL?



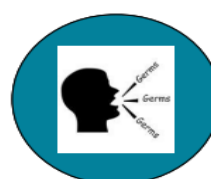
FEVER

With fever greater than 100.4° F*. Student may return when fever-free for **24 hours** (WITHOUT use of fever-reducing medicine).



VOMITING/DIARRHEA

Any unexplained vomiting episode. May return **24 hours** after last episode. Diarrhea = three or more unexplained episodes of watery or loose stool in **24 hours** **OR** sudden onset of loose stools. May return 24 hours after last episode.



COUGH

Serious, sustained coughing, shortness of breath, or difficulty breathing.



RASH

Any new rash accompanied by a fever. May return after rash goes away or clearance given by a health care provider.



SKIN LESIONS/SORES

Drainage from a sore that cannot be contained within a bandage **OR** sores are increasing in size **OR** new sores are developing day-to-day.



OTHER

Symptoms that prevent the student from active participation in usual school activities **OR** student is requiring more care than school can safely provide.

4K Friends & Fun!



December in 4K was all about gingerbread! Our family outreach project was to disguise a gingerbread friend so they wouldn't get eaten over the holidays. Our families were very creative with their disguises; Santa's, snowmen and rainbows to name a few. We read many different versions of the book "The Gingerbread Man" and discussed how the books were the same or different. The best part of our gingerbread fun was using our five senses to explore a gingerbread friend cookie. Of course, the favorite was tasting the cookies! We had a visit from Santa and had fun during our week before break with different dress up days! Our 4K students are working hard on learning letters, letter sounds, rhyming, making patterns, counting, number sense and writing their names.

SAVE THE DATES



MELROSE-MINDORO
KIDS COME FIRST

2025-2026 4K REGISTRATION

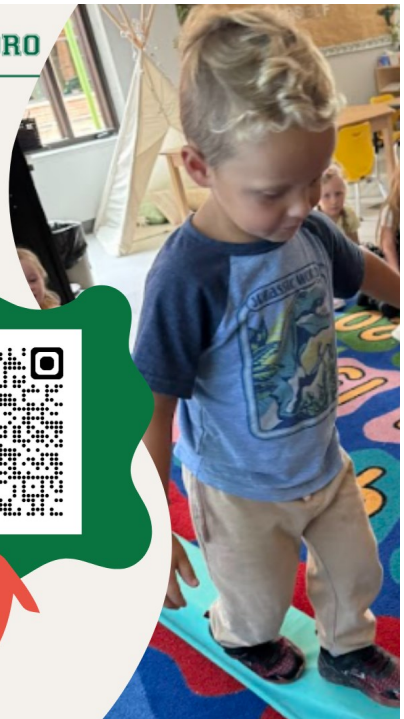
Join us on February 6 at 6:30pm or
February 7th at 8:30am to:

**LEARN ABOUT YOUR CHILD'S START IN 4K
DURING AN INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATION.**

Enjoy a tour of our 4K classrooms.

GATHER ENROLLMENT INFORMATION.

**Please scan the QR code to complete a short
questionnaire about your future MUSTANG!**



Hello to the New Additions to our Mustang Family!



Top row: L to R: Welcome new and returning staff! Paraprofessional Brianna Brehmer; Custodian Terri Camden; ECH teacher Nikki Clark; District Nurse Beth Dobbs; Ag teacher/FFA Advisor Maddie Dobbs. **Middle row:** District Nurse Tiffany Gray; 9-12th Grade PE teacher Sam Johnson; 6th Grade Special Education teacher Jessica Kasten; 9-12th Grade Guidance Counselor Malena Lupient; 4K teacher Kylee Martin. **Bottom row:** Paraprofessional Kelly Mulholland; 2nd Grade teacher Hannah Olson; Bus Driver/Study Hall Aide Joie Stark and District Technology Director Ben Woof. Not pictured: Food Service staff members Patsy Betsinger, Tammy LaBar and Cheryl Thompson along with Paraprofessionals Chelsea Bruemmer, Amber Libke, and Don Koehler.



Retirement for Three!

At the time of printing, three district staff announced their plan to retire at the end of the 24-25 school year. Congratulations to 5th Grade teacher Lisa Larson (29 years), Food Service Director Sarah McAdams (28 years) and District Administrative Secretary Michelle Murray (25 years). Thank you for your years of service and dedication to the students and staff at Melrose-Mindoro and best wishes for a fulfilling and enjoyable retirement.

Bridging Brighter Smiles Bridging Brighter Smiles is in our district and provides basic dental care 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 screenings, cleanings, fluoride varnish applications, dental sealants, dental health education and referral assistance.

To enroll your children, go to enrollment.bbsmiles.org to complete an enrollment form right 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

Scholarship Opportunities

Thanks to the generosity of many people, local groups sponsor a variety of scholarship programs. Individuals, clubs, and businesses provide funds that students from Melrose-Mindoro receive every year, and some of the groups make multiple awards. Most of these scholarships do require an application. Seniors should check in the guidance office to obtain more information. They will receive a list of local scholarships, and most of the application forms are available on our school computer network.

Most local scholarship applications are due in early April, but some deadlines are earlier.

Help is also available for students researching state and national scholarships. Applicants should be aware that the deadlines for these programs vary widely. For most students, focusing their effort on local scholarships is more productive than participating in nation-wide competitions.

Our local donors may change every year. Anyone interested in starting a new scholarship is encouraged to contact the high school. All eligible students are encouraged to apply for these awards.

Referendum Meeting Dates

Information regarding the school district's upcoming referendum will be shared during the local municipality's February or March monthly meetings. Check the dates and times below for a meeting close to you.

Town/Village	Polling Location/Town Hall	Date	Time
North Bend	N631 North Bend Dr. Melrose	2/11/25	7:00 PM
Farmington	N8309 CO RD C, Mindoro	3/4/25	7:00 PM
Melrose (Village)	112 N. Washington St. Melrose	3/5/25	6:00 PM
Melrose (Town)	N1701 North Rd. Melrose	3/10/25	6:00 PM
Irving	N3291 Nichols Rd, Black River Falls	3/12/25	7:00 PM

The district will hold two informational sessions at school for your convenience.

March 14 at 8:00 a.m. in the JH/HS Cafeteria (light breakfast provided)

March 20 at 5:30 p.m. in the Auditorium

Spring Election, April 1, 2025

It is important for you to vote at the Spring Election on April 1, 2025. There will be a referendum question and election of school board members.

The question: 'Shall the School District of Melrose-Mindoro, La Crosse, Jackson & Monroe Counties, Wisconsin be authorized to exceed the revenue limit specified in Section 121.91, WI Statutes, by \$1,200,000 to take effect in the 2025-2026 school year for recurring purposes of operational expenses?'



School Board Offices/Areas and candidate names that will appear on the ballot:

Area 1: That area north of County Trunk D extended in Jackson County (Terry Blaken, Incumbent)

Area 4: That area east of State Highway 108 (formerly County Trunk C) in La Crosse County (Empty seat) To be considered a write in candidate, interested parties must have paperwork filed in the district office prior to noon on March 28, 2025)

Area 7: The District-at-large (Miranda Chandler & Dan Stern)

Early Dismissal & School Closing Procedure

If school will be starting late, closed, or dismissing early due to inclement weather, an announcement will be broadcast on the radio & TV stations listed below. Notices will also be posted on our district Facebook page.

To receive information on your mobile device, visit the app store & download your favorite station's weather app or check their websites for up-to-date information. *Emergency Messenger* through Infinite Campus may also be used to notify parents for early dismissals and closings.



Magnum Media: Kicks 106.3, Magic 97.9, WKBH 102.7, Alt 107.1, Mix 96.1, 94.5 WTMB **WWIS-Black River Falls:** WWIS FM 99.7 **WHTL-Whitehall:** WHTL-102.3 FM **WCOW-Sparta:** Cow 97.1 **Midwest Family Broadcasting-La Crosse:** WIZM 410 AM, WKTY 580 AM, WIZM-FM Z-93.3, WRQT 95.7/The Rock, KQYB 98.3 FM, KCLH 94.7 FM **Midwest Family Broadcasting-Eau Claire:** WAXX 104.5 FM, WAYY 790 AM or 105.1 FM, I-94 94.1 FM

TV Stations WKBT-8 (www.news8000.com), WXOW-19 (www.wxow.com) WEAU-13 (www.weau.com), FOX 25/48 (www.wiproud.com)

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 youth 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 Malena Lupient, Homeless Liaison for the Melrose-Mindoro School District, at (608) 488-2201 ext. 1127 or email lupient.malena@mel-min.k12.wi.us for additional information about the rights and services described above.

Career & Technical Education



- Students enrolled in the Carpentry class have been busy as ever having completed multiple projects. Students constructed a press box/ concession stand for the baseball field and an announcer deck for the softball field. Both projects turned out well and will greatly enhance these facilities.
- September 25th representatives from the North Central States Regional Council of Carpenters talked with students on opportunities in the construction apprenticeship program.
- In November, students attended the Operating Engineers open house in Coloma, Wisconsin. Students learned about the many great careers and gained experience operating virtual and real heavy equipment.
- Mr. Briggs and Mrs. Dobbs attended the La-Crosse area Builders annual *Tools for Schools* Banquet where the Carpentry class was awarded a variety of high quality tools for students to use in our programs.



The Melrose-Mindoro Agriscience Department is thrilled to announce a new collaboration with the Food Service Department to bring fresh lettuce to our school lunches! Thanks to the upcoming purchase of a state-of-the-art Forks Farm hydroponics system, students will gain hands-on experience in sustainable agriculture while growing leafy greens right here at school. This partnership highlights our commitment to fostering agricultural education, sustainability, and healthy eating. We're excited to see our students take the lead in cultivating produce that will directly benefit the school community. Stay tuned for updates!

What's up In ag?



JAN 17-18 <i>Half time conference</i>	FEB 13 <i>Farm forum</i>	FEB 16-17 <i>FFA Day on the hill</i>
FEB 17-21 !!FFA WEEK!!	FEB 20 <i>Donkey basketball</i>	FEB - MAR 28-1 <i>Fire SWTC</i>

MELROSE-MINDORO DRAMA

PRESENTS:



BY ERIC PRICE

ADAPTED FROM THE NOVEL BY JANE AUSTEN

FRIDAY APRIL 4TH 7PM

SATURDAY APRIL 5TH AT 2:00PM AND 7:00PM

FEATURING POP SONGS THROUGH THE AGES INCLUDING...

**"BE MY BABY", "BRAVE", "CHAPEL OF LOVE", "HEARTBREAKER",
"KING OF ANYTHING", "MAN, I FEEL LIKE A WOMAN", "ROAR", "STRAIGHT
UP", "UNWRITTEN", AND MANY MORE!**

Join us for a
TITLE I FAMILY NIGHT EVENT
Thursday, February 13th at 5:30pm
in the Elementary Gym
The Magic of Isaiah

**READING
IS
MAGICAL**

Please scan the QR code to complete a short survey about your family's attendance plans. Your response will help us plan accordingly and ensure a great experience for everyone



Summer School

June 16th–July 3rd, 2025
8am–3:05 pm

Sports, arts and crafts,
and
many more fun activities!

MORE INFO COMING SOON
waughtalt@mel-min.k12.wi.us

Melrose-Mindoro School District
Census Data Collection
(February 2025)

The Melrose-Mindoro School District is collecting census data for children 20 years of age (as of June 30, 2025) and younger. **Please complete this form only if you have a new addition to the family or are new to the district, even if your child(ren) 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 age 0-20 years old as of June 30 this year residing in your home. Use legal names of children.

Child's First Name	Child's Last Name	Date of Birth	Gender (M/F)	Current Grade Level

Parent(s) or Guardian(s)

(List only those living in the household.)

Father's Full Name _____

Mother's Full Name _____

Other people living in home (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 High School
ATTN: Chelsea Parker
N181 ST RD 108
Melrose, WI 54642

Or e-mail to: parker.chelsea@mel-min.k12.wi.us

Melrose-Mindoro School District

N181 State Highway 108

Melrose, WI 54642