



WOLFPACK EXPRESS

Focusing On Activities In The School District of Manawa

November 14, 2019

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Focus on Key Performance Indicators

BY DR. MELANIE J. OPPOR
DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR

Over the past three years, the School District of Manawa has embarked on a deliberate improvement effort that involves every staff member in the district, all students, and you. District staff are continuing training in the seven principles of the Rapid Improvement (RI) Process. The seven RI principles include:



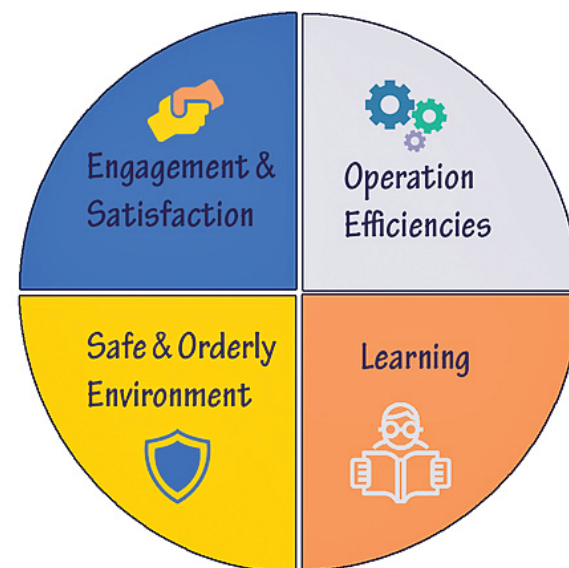
- Make the problem-specific & user-centered.
- Variation in performance is the key problem to address.
- See the system that produces the current outcomes.
- We cannot improve at scale what we cannot measure.
- Anchor improvement in disciplined inquiry.
- Accelerate improvement through discipline and collaboration.
- Fix what is bothering you.

Staff use strategies that help us apply the seven RI principles in our daily work.

The SDM has four categories on which improvements are focused to include: learning, safe and orderly environment, engagement and satisfaction, and operation efficiencies. In each category, there are several ways the District is measuring our progress on the key performance indicators.

Over the course of the school year, staff will be sharing our progress on each of the key performance indicators during the presentation section of the regular Board of Education meetings. For more detailed information on the key performance indicators, watch for upcoming stories describing our progress and check out the SDM brochure found on the district's website.

If your organization would like Dr. Oppor to share the 2019-20 State of the District Address, please contact her at 920-596-2525 or email her at mopper@manawaschools.org to schedule.



School Board Election

The following offices are to be elected to succeed the present incumbents listed. The term of office for school board member is three years beginning on Monday, April 27, 2020 unless otherwise noted. **Board Member Pohl announced at the September 16th Board of Education Meeting that she would not seek re-election.**

Office Incumbent

Helvetia/Union – Zone 3 – Bobbi Jo Pethke

St. Lawrence / Ogdensburg Zone 4 – Hélène Pohl

Royalton/Mukwa – Zone 5 – Russ Hollman

The Campaign Registration Statement and a Declaration of Candidacy, must be filed no later than 5:00 p.m., on Tuesday, January 7, 2020, in the office of the School District Clerk at 800 Beech Street, Manawa. If a primary is necessary, the primary will be held on Tuesday, February 18, 2020.

New School Walls Have Meaning



BY DANIEL WOLFGRAM
JR./SR. HIGH PRINCIPAL

As I look out my office window, I can't help but be excited about what students in Manawa will be experiencing when they return to school next year. The rumbling of trucks, the whir of the drills and saws, and the buzz of activity that occurs a few feet from my workspace remind me of bees in a hive. It is easy to get lost in the newness of learning spaces, but we must constantly remind ourselves why we are moving forward with the renovations and upgrades.



The return to a middle school concept of education will benefit the students in Manawa for decades to come. These students are not simply older elementary students nor younger high school students. There are dramatic changes that occur in the lives of these students that require a different and unique approach to education. The onset of puberty disrupts the relatively smooth elementary school years and has an impact on the cognitive, social, and emotional lives of the children.

The teachers realize this special time of life and look to establish a mentor-type relationship between teacher and student. These small communities of

learners help to promote personalized learning in a way that supports social-emotional growth. Best middle school teaching practices emphasize the power of personal adult relationships, safe school climates, student roles in decision-making, and small learning communities. Adolescence is a tumultuous time with students' preoccupation with creating their own identity. The close-knit structure of the middle school pro-

vides opportunities for students to dress-rehearse these social schemes with the guidance of a caring and knowledgeable staff.

So as the walls begin to rise on the newly constructed learning spaces for the students in Manawa, staff will continue to re-visit the reasons why we are creating these spaces. The new walls represent a safe haven for students to come to school on a daily basis and feel supported and cared for, by professionals that understand the challenges students face. While the traditional definition of the word school is a place where children are educated, the new Manawa Middle School will be a place where social and emotional abilities will also be fostered to provide solid foundations for lifelong success!



Wednesday Collaboration Part 2

BY DANNI BRAUER
CURRICULUM DIRECTOR

What do teachers do on early release days? This is a question we have heard off and on since the district implemented Wednesday early release days. The short answer is time for collaboration for student success. The long answer includes a teacher's impact on learning, school improvement, and building relationships. This is the second in a series of three articles that discuss the need for Wednesday collaboration time and what the teachers are doing during this time.



The School District of Manawa has taken on the commitment of School Improvement Planning for Performance Excellence. Over the past two years, the administrative team has received training through CESA 6 on this systems approach. So far, this training has resulted in the district Plan on a Page and the use of Rapid Improvement tools with staff. Last year, the principals with support from the rest of the administrative team, created building plans on a page. These plans led to the formation of Goal Teams in each building. Goal Teams are made up of teachers who are dedicated to researching and implementing strategies to help the building meet its Key Performance Indicators (KPI) from their building plan. Every other Wednesday, Goal Teams meet to continue their work. Some examples of their work include recommendations for district-wide assessments that are more aligned to state-mandated assessments, organized service-learning projects, and intentional academic and career planning strategies.

Our district is always looking to make improvements and continue its growth. Having this focused time for goal teamwork every other Wednesday provides us this opportunity.



Junior High Student Council is in Full Swing!

BY LITTLE WOLF JUNIOR HIGH CORE TEAM

The Little Wolf Junior High Student Council has been working behind the scenes since the school year began. One of the first topics discussed was the dances. The 7th and 8th grade class officers held some lunch-time meetings to plan the first junior high dance of the school year. The Halloween-themed dance was held on October 18 and had over fifty stu-

dents in attendance. The 7th and 8th graders dressed in costumes and came to celebrate, hang out with friends, enjoy some snacks, listen to good music, and of course, they came to dance. Junior high dances cost \$5.00 per person. Proceeds pay for the cost of the DJ and helping to offset the cost of PBIS activities for the 7th and 8th grades.



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A Bustling Night at MES

BY: MICHELLE PUKITA,
MES PRINCIPAL

JACQUELYN SERNAU,
DISTRICT READING SPECIALIST
AND TITLE I COORDINATOR

There were many activities taking place the night of Parent-Teacher Conferences at the MES. Title I sponsored a table called “Fall in Love with Reading” to strike up some interest for literacy and family engagement. Families that stopped by were encouraged to put their favorite book title on a leaf and hang it on the tree in exchange for a treat. There were also parent surveys distributed, and five lucky participants won a gift certificate for the book fair.

The book fair also took place last week at conferences. The theme was “Dino-mite Book Fair: Stomp, Chomp & Read!” Eighty-four people purchased books. A portion of the book fair profits help to purchase new books for the MES book room. The book



room has collections of a wide variety of books spanning the reading levels. There are enough copies of each book so that small groups of students can enjoy literature together during small group time in reading class. Small group reading time is an important part of the reading curriculum.

Lastly, besides catching up with teachers and checking in on how students are progressing, the staff from Sturm Memorial Library were here demonstrating an interactive board game called Math Winder. Families enjoyed playing! The game was also at the public library for families to enjoy on October 25.

It was a busy, but productive night here at MES. We encourage all families to get involved with the many exciting events and programs that we have to offer. Every chance we get to work together means more success for our kids! We look forward to seeing you throughout the year.

Calling for Your Help to Recognize our Military Personnel

BY BECKY STORMOEN
3RD GRADE TEACHER

This year each grade level is focusing on the district key performance indicator of service learning. We are teaching the importance of giving back to the community. In the month of November, third graders are working to be thankful for the sacrifices of our servicemen and women. Some activities we plan to do are writing thank you letters for local heroes, learning about veterans and military service, and meeting a veteran in person. We would like

your help to create a huge wall of thanks at the elementary! Do you know either a veteran/ service member past or present that is important to your family? Then the third graders at Manawa Elementary want your help. Any time in the month of November please mail a picture (in uniform if possible) of your beloved service member along with the following information:

- Name
- Branch of military
- Recognized by

•Other information you want us to know

Please be advised this picture will not be returned and will continue to be displayed each November for years to come.

Pictures can be mailed to:
Manawa Elementary School
3rd grade
800 Beech Street
Manawa, WI 54949



6th Grade Visits Fox 11 News Station and Lambeau Field

BY MERIA WRIGHT
6TH GRADE TEACHER

On Thursday, October 17th, the 6th graders went on a field trip to the Fox 11 News Station. This field trip was arranged to go along with the 6th-grade science weather unit currently being taught. Chief Meteorologist, Pete Petoniak, was their guide as he discussed how he reports the weather and other features of the studio. Each student

was given an opportunity to use the green screen used for weather reporting. Students were also given an opportunity to say, “Good Day Wisconsin,” which was featured the next morning on the Good Day Wisconsin morning show.

Students were also given a tour behind the scenes to see how the weather and news reports are created. They learned about the history of the station and even saw the Fox 11 Storm Chasers News

vehicle. Pete Petoniak described the inner workings of the van and how reports are transmitted.

After the Fox 11 visit, students had the opportunity to tour Lambeau Field. They were able to sit in a suite high above the field as they learned about the history of Lambeau. Students also received a chance to go through the Packers Hall of Fame. Even if you weren’t a Packer’s fan, there was a lot of football history to see and learn.



Keys to Reading

MES kindergarten students each received their “keys to reading the world” necklaces. They paraded through the school to show off their keys. The key is an inspirational reminder to love reading and make it a lifelong habit.



Welcome New Staff



**CASEY JOHNSON
- 1ST GRADE TEACHER**

Mr. Casey Johnson grew up in Manawa and attended Ripon College, where he played football for the Red Hawks. He is now a 1st-grade teacher at Manawa Elementary School, the defensive coordinator for the Manawa football team, and

an assistant coach for the Manawa wrestling team. Mr. Johnson comes from a family steeped in education. His father, Russ, is the Board of Education Vice President and his brother, Brad, is a junior high teacher for the district.



**HAYLEY HARVEY
- KINDERGARTEN TEACHER**

This is Mrs. Harvey's first year teaching kindergarten! She previously taught third grade. Mrs. Harvey grew up in Illinois but has lived in Wisconsin for five years. She lives in Lola with her husband Drew, and

their dog Dakotah. Mrs. Harvey loves to do anything outdoors; she loves to golf, enjoys sunflowers, goes bike riding, and learns about sharks! Mrs. Harvey is very excited about this school year and to be a part of the School District of Manawa.



**MARIE ZIRBEL -
SPECIAL EDUCATION PARAPROFESSIONAL**

Mrs. Zirbel supports students with special needs at the high school. In her free time, she enjoys spending time with her family, camping, and shopping. One interesting fact about Mrs. Zirbel is that she has eighteen nieces and nephews.



**DONNA WHEELER -
PREP COOK**

Mrs. Wheeler is a thirty-year resident of Manawa. She has three children and one grandchild. Mrs. Wheeler has a hobby farm that consists of chickens, cows, and rabbits. She enjoys going on motorcycle rides with her husband. Mrs. Wheeler is

enjoying her new employment "family" at the Little Wolf Jr./Sr. High School.

BOARD RECOGNITION:



During the Oct. 21 meeting of the Manawa School Board, Colton Wegener, Alex Wepner and Conor Schuelke were recognized by the Board for earning Level One - Youth Apprenticeship Certificate of Occupational Proficiency from the State of Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development. Pictured from the left is Wegener, Wepner, Schuelke and School Board President Joanne Johnson. Holly Neumann photo



**WILLIAM LUND -
LONG-TERM SUB TEACHER**

Long-Term Substitute Science Teacher Mr. Lund is the first-semester long-term substitute teaching chemistry, physics, and earth/environmental science. His hometown is Cadillac, Michigan. He

has been married to his wife Victoria for forty-seven years. They have two sons. Mr. Lund taught for forty-one years at Lola-Scandinavia High School, as well as coaching football for many of those years. He is a co-chairman for the Experimental Aircraft Association KidVenture campus that operates annually during the EAA Convention in Oshkosh. He is excited about being temporarily out of retirement and teaching again at Little Wolf Jr./Sr. High School.



**JACI GRIGNON -
DISTRICT NURSE**

Nurse Grignon (pronounced green-o) prefers to be called Nurse Jaci to make it easier for students to remember her name. She is in the district on Tuesdays and Thursdays. What gifts does Nurse Jaci bring to the district? Nurse

Jaci has expertise in intervening with and/or acting on, potential health problems; providing health case management services; providing medication training and support to school staff; and acting as a liaison between the home, school, and the medical community. One interesting fact about Nurse Jaci is that she is one of the Medical Directors at Lifest, located in Oshkosh and hosted annually in July. Come out and visit her next summer!



**JULIE PETERSON -
CLERICAL / HEALTH PARAPROFESSIONAL**

Mrs. Peterson is the ninth of twelve children raised and living in Wisconsin. She lives with her husband in Royalton, WI. Their greatest joy is their combined families of five children who have

blessed them with twelve grandchildren. With family living so close, it is important to spend time with family as much as possible. They are growing over eighty blueberry bushes and enjoy the other aspects of being outdoors.



"You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown"

musical performances:

- Saturday, November 16 - 7:00 p.m.
 - Sunday, November 17 - 2:00 p.m. matinee
- Admission will be \$3 for Adults, \$1 for Students.



Monthly Events

November 2019 Events:

- Nov. 16 - Fall Musical "You're a Good Man Charlie Brown" 7:00 p.m. - LWHS Commons
- Nov. 17 - Fall Musical "You're a Good Man Charlie Brown" 2:00 p.m. - LWHS Commons
- Nov. 18-22 - American Education Week
- Nov. 18 - Board of Education Meeting – 7:00 p.m. – MES Board Room
- Nov. 20 - Not Enough Apologies Documentary - 6 p.m. at Sturm Memorial Library
- Nov. 27-29 – No School – Holiday Break

December 2019 Events:

- Dec. 1-Jan. 7 – Filing of Declaration of Candidacy for School Board
- Dec. 2 – Finance Committee Mtg – 5:00 p.m. - MES Board Room
- Dec. 2 – HS Winter Choir Concert – 7:00 p.m. – LWHS Commons
- Dec. 10 – Title I Family Engagement Event – 6:30 p.m. – MES Commons
- Dec. 11 – MES Winter Concert – 12:30 p.m. – MES Gymnasium
- Dec. 11 – Buildings & Grounds Comm. Mtg – 5:30 p.m. – MES Board Room
- Dec. 14 – Band Boosters Cookie Bake – 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. – LWHS Commons
- Dec. 15 – Band Concert – 5:00 p.m. – LWHS Commons
- Dec. 16 - Board of Education Meeting – 7:00 p.m. - MES Board Room
- Dec. 18 – NHS Blood Drive – 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. - LWHS
- Dec. 23-Jan. 1 – Holiday Break – No School

January 2020 Events:

- Jan. 7 – Deadline for Filing School Board Candidacy Papers – 5:00 p.m. – District Office
- Jan. 8 – Buildings & Grounds Comm. Mtg – 5:30 p.m. - MES Board Room
- Jan. 20 – No School – Records & Inservice Day
- Jan. 20 - Board of Education Meeting – 7:00 p.m. - MES Board Room
- Jan. 25 – Winter Formal – 8:00 p.m. – LWHS Commons
- Jan. 31 – Vocal Arts Festival - Madison
- All Athletic Events are on the Calendar of Events page on the district website www.manawaschools.org



FREE FILM SCREENING

not enough apologies

trauma stories

This new documentary from Wisconsin Public Television, explores the lasting effects of traumatic experiences on children and adults, and new responses to advocating for and assisting victims. The film takes viewers inside juvenile courtrooms to understand the experiences of children in need of protection and support services.

Wednesday November 20th
6pm
Sturm Memorial Library

Discussion following
Refreshments served

Special thanks to our content and community partners.



This project is being generously supported by the Focus Fund for Journalism and Friends of Wisconsin Public Television.

Effects of Trauma

BY ELLEN CONNOR
STURM MEMORIAL LIBRARY

The Sturm Memorial Library, together with the School District of Manawa, will be showing the documentary Not Enough Apologies: trauma stories beginning at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday Nov. 20 at the Sturm Memorial Library.

Not Enough Apologies is a new documentary from Wisconsin Public Television that explores the lasting effects of traumatic experiences on children and adults and suggests new ways of serving and assisting those who struggle because of trauma.

Viewers learn how adverse childhood experiences can result in changes to the brain leading to behavioral and mental health problems.

As more and more educators, doctors, psychologists, librarians and parents are learning about the lasting effects of trauma, a new way of providing services called Trauma Informed Care is emerging.

This documentary is relevant to anyone who has children, or works with children in any capacity.

There will be a short discussion after the hour long film and information on mental health services in the county will be available.

The Sturm Memorial Library was part of the Mental Health Summit that the School District of Manawa held on Sept. 30 and as a result made a commitment to offer programming that would help inform the community on issues relating to mental health and care.

Snacks will be available for people who are unable to eat dinner before the screening.

The Library and schools thank Wisconsin Public Television for this opportunity to offer a quality film free of charge.

For more information call the Library at 920-596-2252 or check our calendar of events online at www.manawalibrary.org.

School District of Manawa Information

District Office

Phone: 920-596-2525
 800 Beech Street
 District Administrator: Dr. Melanie J. Oppor
 Business Manager: Carmen O'Brien
 Curriculum & Special Ed. Director:
 Danielle Brauer
 Technology Director: Bryant Cobarrubias

Little Wolf Jr./Sr. High School

Grades 7-12
 Phone: 920-596-2524
 515 E. 4th Street
 Principal: Daniel Wolfgram

Manawa Elementary School

Grades PK – 6
 Phone: 920-596-2238
 800 Beech Street
 Principal: Michelle Pukita

Paving the Way

Phone: 920-596-2526
 407 S. Bridge St.
 Director: Danielle Brauer

Manawa Board of Education

President: Joanne Johnson
 Vice President: Russ Johnson
 Clerk: Bobbi Jo Pethke
 Treasurer: Hélène Pohl
 Director: Russell Hollman
 Director: Stan Forbes
 Director: Bruce Scheller

Board Meetings:

Regular Board Meetings are held on the third Monday of each month (except April–4th Monday) in the Board Room located at the Manawa Elementary School at 7:00 pm. Any additional meetings are duly posted on the district's website, in the City Hall and at Sturm Memorial Library. For additional information please contact the District Office at 920-596-2525.

The Board of Education and Administrative Team would like to thank all the individuals, groups, and businesses that so generously contribute to the District. Your gifts of money, time, materials, and talents support and enhance programs for all our students and staff!

The School District of Manawa does not discriminate against individuals on the basis of sex, race, religion, national origin, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital or parental status, sexual orientation, or physical, mental, emotional, or learning disability. Federal law prohibits discrimination in education and employment on the basis of age, race, color, national origin, sex, religion, or disability.

Mission Statement:

The School District of Manawa is the place where students choose to excel academically and realize their strengths.

Vision Statement: The School District of Manawa engages students to reach their full potential in a changing global society through highly effective instruction and leadership.

Snow Day / Inclement Weather

Information can be found at:

Radio Stations: WDUX 92.7 FM, WDUX 800 AM

TV Stations: Channel 2, 5, 7, 11 & 26

Website Accessibility

The School District of Manawa strives to be inclusive and responsive to the needs of all district residents. Anyone finding district information or website functionality to be inaccessible to persons with disabilities is asked to contact the District Webmaster, Mr. Cobarrubias, by telephoning 920-596-5737 or emailing him at: bcobarrubias@manawaschools.org

The following links provide direct access to the School District of Manawa Policies related to Section 504 and Title II along with the names and contact information for the District's 504/ADA Compliance Officers and can be accessed from the district website under Board of Education > Board Policies > Link to Policies:

- 2260.01-SECTION 504/ADA PROHIBITION AGAINST DISCRIMINATION BASED ON DISABILITY
- 1623-SECTION 504/ADA PROHIBITION AGAINST DISABILITY DISCRIMINATION IN EMPLOYMENT
- 3123-SECTION 504/ADA PROHIBITION AGAINST DISABILITY DISCRIMINATION IN EMPLOYMENT
- 4123-SECTION 504/ADA PROHIBITION AGAINST DISABILITY DISCRIMINATION IN EMPLOYMENT
- 2260-NONDISCRIMINATION AND ACCESS TO EQUAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY
- 1422-NONDISCRIMINATION AND EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY
- 3122-NONDISCRIMINATION AND EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY
- 4122-NONDISCRIMINATION AND EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The School District of Manawa's Section 504 and ADA Compliance Officers are as follows:

Carmen O'Brien

Business Manager
 School District of Manawa
 800 Beech Street
 Manawa, WI 54949
 920-596-5332
cobrien@manawaschools.org

Daniel Wolfgram

High School/Junior High School Principal
 School District of Manawa
 515 E. Fourth Street
 Manawa, WI 54949
 920-596-5310
dewolfgram@manawaschools.org



WAYS YOU CAN HELP MANAWA SCHOOLS

Boxtops Needed – Clip the Boxtops for Education logo on many household products and drop-off at any school office. Some of the many products with the logo are: Betty Crocker, Pillsbury, General Mills, Ziploc, Hefty, Kleenex and Huggies.

STEP VOLUNTEERS:

Senior citizens can save on their property taxes by volunteering in the schools through the Senior Tax Exchange Program. Contact Ruth Lord, Director at 920-596-5673 for more information.

The SCHOOL DISTRICT OF MANAWA is the place where STUDENTS choose to EXCEL academically and realize their STRENGTHS.