



WOLFPACK EXPRESS

Focusing On Activities In The School District of Manawa

March 15, 2018

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Jessie Ort, left, and Darren Carson, right, gave a presentation on Paving the Way / the PAES Lab to the Board of Education.



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Emergency Management 101

BY DR. MELANIE J. OPPOR
DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR

An emergency can occur at any time and schools must be prepared to respond to ensure everyone's safety. You may be curious how critical decisions are made in high stress situations to ensure the safety and security of SDM students and staff. The answer is simple; administrators, staff, and students plan and practice for various types of emergency situations. However, emergencies can be extremely complicated.

How can everyone in a school ever be ready for all the different kinds of emergencies that could happen? Each situation is unique. The School District of Manawa has joined with the other Waupaca County districts in using a common set of practices. There are four main categories of responses: Lockdown, Lockout, Evacuate, and Shelter. The district teaches one "Evacuation" procedure used for multiple situations that require a similar response. For example, in the event of fires, bomb threats, and natural gas leaks, everyone knows how to safely evacuate the building when told to do so. For tornadoes or outdoor chemical spills, everyone will "Shelter" inside the building. Using four simple color-coded procedures makes it easier for everyone to remember what to do. There are only four basic procedures to rehearse. Plus, the directions are simple enough so even guests in the schools can easily follow the steps.



Dr. Melanie J. Oppor,
District Administrator

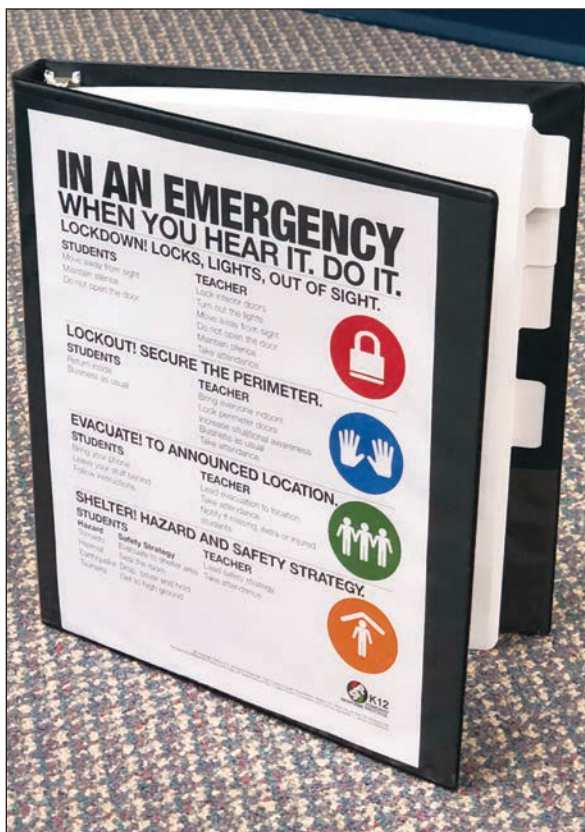
When a report of a concern comes into the school or district office, a decision must be made within moments. Each administrator has an "Emergency Response Protocols" binder (printed and electronic) close at hand. The administrator can assess the situation and take the initial safety steps within minutes of the report. This binder goes into great detail and guides the administrator step-by-step through the process. It provides a checklist of

tasks to complete to ensure that no important steps are missed. The binder is not distributed to the public as it contains security measures that need to be kept confidential.

The School District of Manawa also works closely with Waupaca County Emergency Management, the Waupaca County Sheriff's Department, the Manawa Police Department, and the Manawa Fire/Rescue Department. At least once a year, some form of tabletop simulation is done. A tabletop simulation is where the administrative team is presented with a realistic situation and must respond while being observed by or interacting with the experts. Often the simulations mirror events that have recently occurred in one of the schools in Waupaca County. The simulation feels very real and provides a great test of our preparedness. After the simulation, we all sit down to discuss the strengths and weaknesses of the response. We learn something new each time.

Dr. Oppor has been trained in Crisis Reality Training. In this training, educators and law enforcement personnel work together to learn about and practice for a wide variety of crisis situations including school and workplace violence. For more information on Crisis Reality Training please visit the following website: <https://www.crisisrealitytraining.com/> This adds another dimension to responding when a crisis situation arises.

How are critical decisions made in high stress situations to ensure the safety and security of SDM students and staff? Practice and teamwork are key to the process. Having a well-developed plan that is practiced regularly by administrators, staff, and students is essential. In the wake of the recent school shooting in Florida, we are reminded each day of the precious lives of your children that are entrusted to SDM personnel while they are at school. We take that responsibility very seriously and will continue to keep our students' health and safety a focus of our daily responsibilities.



Middle School vs. Jr. High School

BY DAN WOLFGRAM
JR./SR. HIGH PRINCIPAL

"Middle school is a school in the secondary educational system that usually provides the bridge between elementary and high schools. While the grade configuration of these schools varies, the sixth, seventh, and eighth grades, are most commonly found together. The age ranges of these students span between the ages of 12-14. While middle schools are very common in the United States," Little Wolf Jr./Sr. High School follows the incorporation of the seventh and eighth grade in the same building.

The School District of Manawa adhered to the middle school concept for many years. Due to decreasing enrollment and financial constraints, grade realignments were reconfigured to a junior high model starting in 2010.

"The middle school years are a significant time in schooling for students, as educational expectations rise, and the social and biological changes of puberty affect the students. The middle school was established to act as a transition, moving the student away from the world of childhood and introducing social skills and mastery of knowledge and techniques that will be further developed in high school. To succeed in this role, middle schools nurture their students socially and emotionally, providing guidance in social relationships as well as academic and other studies." (Retrieved from http://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Middle_school, 2/22/2018)

Over the past year, surveys, focus groups, community meetings, and other activities have been used to solicit input from students, staff, parents, and community members about what the district's schools need to operate efficiently and serve the needs of SDM learners well into the future. Now that the facilities study is nearing conclusion, it is time to examine what is best for the students of Manawa.

In the coming months, The Wolfpack Express will feature articles exploring the subject of moving grade six to Little Wolf Jr./Sr. High School and again returning to a true middle school concept. This proposal will be linked with an upgrade in facilities to ensure the physical structure is optimal for student learning. Any community member wishing to speak with Principal Dan Wolfram is encouraged to contact him at dwolfram@manawaschools.org, or via phone at (920)-596-5310.



Daniel Wolfram,
Little Wolf Jr./Sr. High School Principal

What Are Collaborative Learning Spaces?

BY MICHELLE PUKITA
ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL

There are many buzzwords that refer to collaborative learning spaces: extending learning area, break-out space and active learning classroom are just a few. What do these words mean? A collaborative learning space enables students to work together in groups to solve problems, discuss ideas, and try out various approaches. These spaces differ from the traditional desks being in straight rows with teachers standing in front of the students lecturing all day



Michelle Pukita,
Manawa Elementary
School Principal

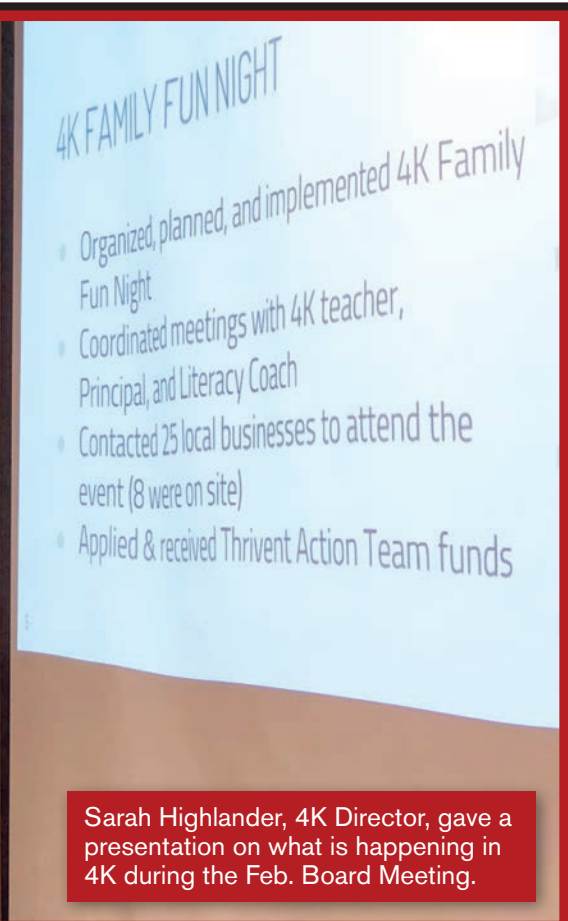
long. A collaborative learning space, on the other hand, might consist of a common work area with flexible furniture that students can move and situate as needed, depending on the task at hand.

“In the process of designing a collaborative learning space, all available areas should be considered spaces for learning. ...Without a front of the room, every seat is the best seat in the class, and students are always at the center of learning. Flexible seating allows for spaces to transform

depending on the purpose of the lesson. Varied seating options, such as stools, rocking chairs, beanbag chairs, and floor seating, give students a choice and variety throughout the day.” (Retrieved from www.edutopia.org/blog/collaborative-learning-spaces-connect-to-world-jennifer-williams-fran-siracusa, Feb. 26, 2018).

Just as the world of education is always changing, so are the spaces and tools we use. It is what is necessary to stay ahead and accommodate the learning styles of our ever-changing students. Next month’s article will focus on why the collaborative learning spaces are needed at Manawa Elementary School.

Board Presentation



Sarah Highlander, 4K Director, gave a presentation on what is happening in 4K during the Feb. Board Meeting.

Mindset

BY DANNI BRAUER

Research suggests that adults should think twice about praising kids for being “smart” or “talented,” because this may foster a fixed mindset. Instead, if we encourage kids’ efforts and acknowledge their persistence and hard work, then we will support their development of a growth mindset. Children with a growth mindset believe that with effort

and persistence they can learn and achieve in school. A growth mindset will better equip them to persevere and pick themselves up when things do not go their way. Adults should also examine their own belief systems. Do you have a growth mindset? Do you believe that with effort and motivation anyone can achieve their goals?

Dr. Carol Dweck, an educational researcher, states parents should not shield their children from challenges, mistakes, and struggles. Instead, parents should teach children to love challenges. They can say things like “This is hard. What fun!” or “This is too easy. It’s no fun.” They should teach their children to embrace mistakes, “Ooooooh, here’s an interesting mistake. What should we do next?” And they should teach them to love effort: “That was a fantastic struggle. You really stuck to it and made great progress” or “This will take a lot of effort - boy, will it be fun.”

Some people need to work at having a growth mindset. It takes time and practice, but it is well worth it when you see the difference that it makes in a child.



Dani Brauer,
Curriculum Director
and Special Education
Director

Messaging System Updates

BY BRYANT COBARRUBIAS

The School District of Manawa relies on a messaging system called Skylert to communicate with our families. We are working to improve how we use our system. Recently we added text messaging to our email and phone alerts. Skylert will not send a text message if the number has successfully been called. For example, if you answered the phone call on Feb. 23 about the late start, you would not receive a text message. Skylert does this to prevent

redundant communication.

Some notifications are sent only to the first phone number and email on record. We are changing this to contact ALL numbers and emails we have on file. We are making this change to ensure both parents receive notifications. This change will affect emergency, attendance, and lunch messages.

Please contact your school if you have a question or need a number/email updated.

4K Family Fun

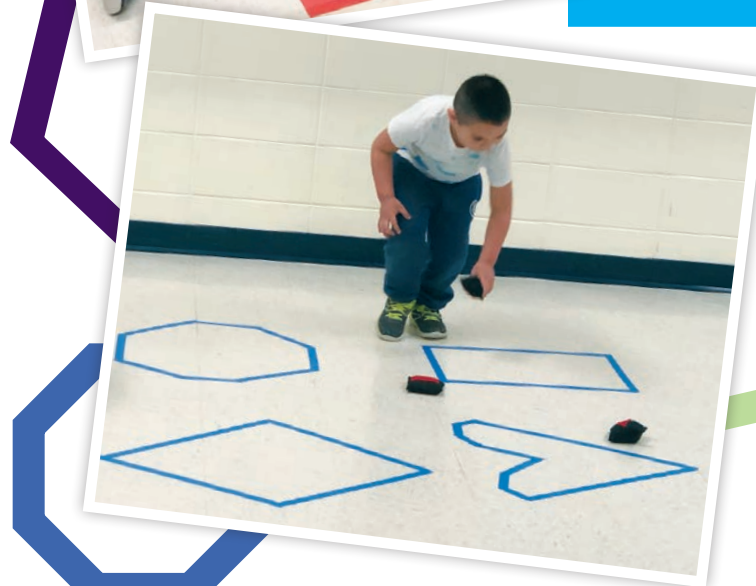
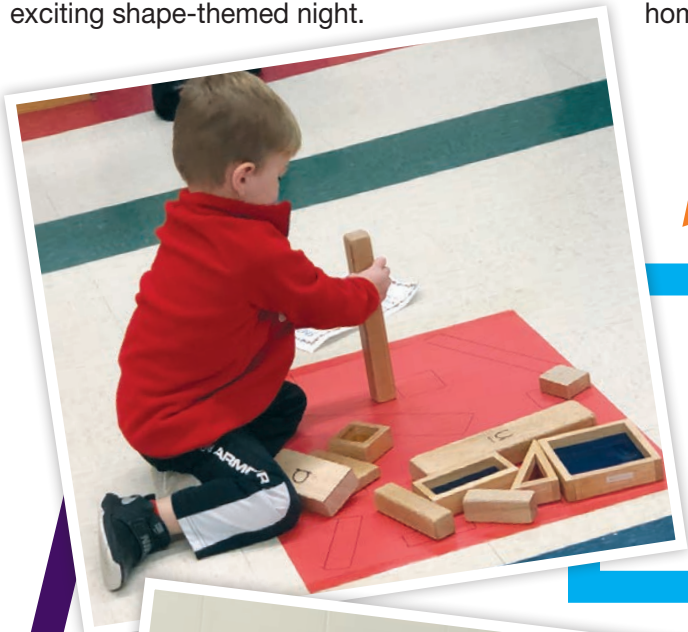
BY SARAH HIGHLANDER
4K DIRECTOR

According to Mr. Rogers, "Play is the work of childhood." In order to provide an opportunity for this necessary "work", Manawa Elementary hosted its first 4K Family Fun Night on Wednesday, February 21st. Current 4K students, incoming 4K students, and their families were invited for an exciting shape-themed night.

Ms. Huebner- the 4K teacher, Mrs. Highlander- 4K Administrator, and Ms. Gast- District Reading Specialist, created a variety of developmentally appropriate activities for the children. Some of the activities were: make a shape necklace, find shapes in a sensory bin, create a mouse out of shapes, create shapes with play-doh, and a bean bag shape toss. Children were able to rotate to all of the activities with their families and take materials home with them in their new Manawa Elementary

drawstring bag that they received. Families were also able to complete 4K registration paperwork during the event. Local businesses were invited to promote their business to our families.

The evening concluded with a shape-themed meal and a tour of the 4K classroom. It was a wonderful event for all who attended. We hope to make this an annual experience that families will look forward to each year!



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Youth Art Month 2018

BY NANCY ZABLER
ART TEACHER

Representing our talented artists from Little Wolf Jr./Sr. High School for this year's Youth Art Month display are Emma Riske (7th grade), Xochitl Grimm (7th grade), Hailey DuFrane (11th grade), Maquelle Moede (11th grade), and Charley Gehrke (12th grade). The Northeast Regional Youth Art Month display was held at the Bergstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass in Neenah on Feb. 17-18. At this Regional display, Charley Gehrke won the Excellence in Technical Skill Award. Charley has also been accepted and earned a scholarship to the Milwaukee Art Institute of Design.

Charley's, Xochitl's and Emma's artworks have been chosen to continue on to the State Youth Art Month display, held in the rotunda of the State Capitol. The Youth Art Month Display at the Wisconsin State Cap-



itol will be held from Feb. 24 through Mar. 9, with a closing reception and celebration on Mar. 9 from noon to 1:00 p.m. The U.W. Marching Band will be performing at this reception. Our three state representatives have the possibility of winning more awards at the state level.

Congratulations to Charley Gehrke for her awards and many congratulations to all five of our fine artists for their skill and dedication! We are proud of our very talented artists.

Praise

BY DANNI BRAUER

The praise a child hears can have a huge impact on his or her mindset. Mindset is a set of attitudes held by someone. A child's mindset affects how they attack problems or things that they view as hard to do.

One way that adults can really help children is by carefully choosing the words adults use when praising children. Every word an adult says and action they perform sends a message to the children in their lives. These words and actions tell children how to think about themselves. Adults should always praise a child's effort instead of praising accomplishments. The following table includes some examples.

Do Not Say	Do Say
You are really athletic!	You really work hard and pay attention when you are on that field!
You are smart!	You work hard in school and it shows!
Your drawing is wonderful; you are a little artist.	I can see you have been practicing your drawing; what a great improvement!
You are a great athlete. You could be the next Aaron Rogers!	Keep practicing, and you will see great results!
You always get good grades; that makes me happy.	When you put forth effort, it really shows in your grades. You should be proud of yourself. We are proud of you!

So next time you are ready to praise a child, stop and think about how to use that opportunity to praise his or her effort instead of accomplishments. It can go a long way in nurturing the child's mindset that with hard work he or she can do anything.

Youth Suicide Prevention Resources Are Available

To get updated information on suicide prevention, intervention and other resources, visit the SDM website > Parents > Suicide Prevention

February Board Recognition



Senior Matayah Pethke gets a certificate for the feature article about her in Agri View. Pictured with Pethke is School Board President Joanne Johnson.



School Board President Joanne Johnson presents 9th grader Ethan Tellock a certificate for High Honors, Leadership and Positive Attitude.

Pyeongchang 2018

BY CORRIE ZIEMER

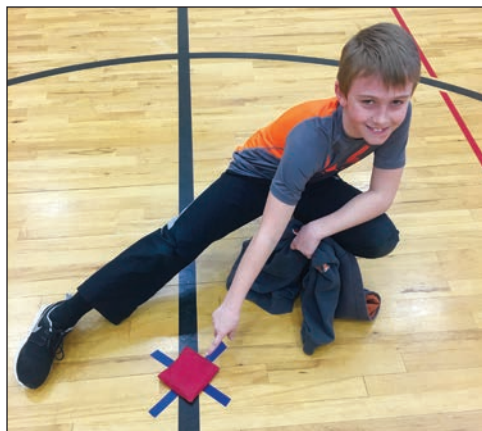
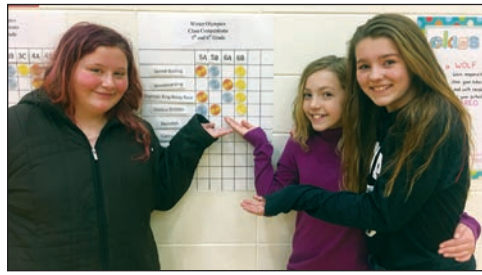
The Spirit of the Olympics

It's truly unlike anything else. It is based upon competition, sportsmanship, teamwork, and culture.

To correspond with the Pyeongchang Winter Olympics, all students, 5 to 18 years old, spent February challenging themselves in a variety of Olympic events within their P.E. classes where students learned about different cultures and experienced the pride that comes from cheering for the U.S.A. as they competed for gold. Students practiced their research skills when creating posters about the different Olympic events in their library skills class and during Response to Intervention time. They also explored creativity as they completed art projects from around the world.

The Olympics provided an opportunity for a large, district-wide, cross-curricular activity where students experienced pushing themselves to their physical limits, working as a team, and learning respect for people from all over the world. The entire event culminated with a Closing Ceremony that included elementary students performing ethnic dances representing South Korea, France, Canada, China, the Netherlands, Norway, and the United States. Information about each country and various Olympic events was also shared. Then students and staff alike had a chance to try some simulated Olympic events.

Like the Olympic Creed says, "The most important thing in the Olympic Games is not to win, but to take part, just as the most important thing in life is not the triumph, but the struggle. The essential thing is not to have conquered but to have fought well."



Proud to be Heart Heroes

BY CORRIE ZIEMER

"Best. Day. Ever." This is what one first grader was overheard saying as she lined up with her class inside the gym, wiping away sweat with a huge, tooth-missing smile. What was she so excited about? The MES annual Jump Rope for Heart event.

The elementary students were not the only ones breaking a sweat and learning about heart health though; the 7th and 8th graders participated in their Hoops for Heart event on the same day.

These two annual events, Jump Rope and Hoops for Heart, have occurred in Manawa for the past ten years. They are fundraisers for the American Heart Association disguised as a chance for students to increase their heart rates, promote play and sportsmanship, and improve

cardiovascular endurance while helping those with heart disease.

The elementary students participated in a variety of jumping activities, including short and long rope jumping, a modified high jump, skip-its and hoppers, and gunny sack races. They also had the opportunity to climb and swing on the rope and try their skills on pogo sticks. Meanwhile, the middle school students were challenged in a variety of basketball games including: Lightning, Knock Out, and Dribbling Relays along with weight lifting and fitness activities.

Physical Education teachers, Mr. Murphy, Mrs. Krause and Mrs. Ziemer were very proud of their students who raised a total of \$5,291. What a great way for students to understand the importance of taking care of their hearts while helping others.

2018 Graduates Under the Laude System

BY JANINE CONNOLLY
SCHOOL COUNSELOR,
LITTLE WOLF JR./SR. HIGH SCHOOL

The 2018 graduating class is the first class from Little Wolf Jr./Sr. High School to graduate under the Laude System. The Laude System is used by most high schools as an alternative to class rank. Students are given a score based on the rigor of their courses and their grade point average. A student must earn a 3.4 grade point to be considered for the Laude System. Certain classes are assigned a point value. A student's total Laude points are then multiplied by their grade point average to achieve the Laude Score. Students can earn Laude points for taking

AP classes, upper level science, math, engineering, foreign language classes, and fine arts classes.

Students are then recognized in three distinct levels. For the graduating class of 2018, students in the Cum Laude group are graduating "With Honor" earning a Laude score of 20-34.99. Students in the Magna Cum Laude group are graduating "With Great Honor" earning a Laude score of 35-49.99. Students in the Summa Cum Laude group are graduating "With Highest Honor" earning a Laude score of 50 points or higher. The students will also wear special cords at graduation signifying their Laude status.

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
dwolfgram@manawaschools.org



Snow Day / Inclement Weather information can be found at:

RADIO STATIONS:

WDUX 92.7 FM, WDUX 800 AM, WROE 94.3 FM

TV STATIONS:

Channel 2, 5, 7, 11 & 26

MARCH/APRIL SCHOOL EVENTS:

- Mar 7 Quiz Bowl Championship
- Mar 17 District Forensics
- Mar 19 BOE Mtg 7:00 p.m.
- Mar 22 Paving the Way Grand Opening 4:30-7:30
This event is Open to the Public
- Mar 23 Reg. Visual Arts Classic
- Mar 30-31 Boys Basketball Alumni Tournament
- Apr 6 LW Jr./Sr. HS Talent Show
- Apr 8 FFA Awards Banquet – LWHS
- Apr 13 State Art Team Competition
- Apr 14 Prom & Post Prom
- Apr 20 State Forensics

All Athletic Events are on the Calendar of Events page on the district website:

www.manawaschools.org



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!

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.

WAYS YOU CAN HELP MANAWA SCHOOLS

Boxtops Needed – Clip the Bixtops 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.

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
Principal: Michelle Pukita



Manawa Board of Education

President:Joanne Johnson
Vice PresidentRuss Johnson
ClerkBobbi 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 Public Library. For additional information please contact the District Office at 920-596-2525.

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.



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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.