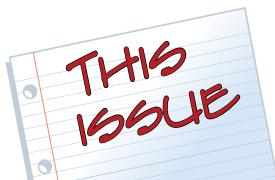




# MANAWA WOLFPACK EXPRESS

Focusing On Activities In The School District of Manawa

January 21, 2021



## Real World of Work



BY DR. MELANIE J. OPPOR  
DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR

Technology education has taken on a fresh look from the shop class of generations past.



Today's students are provided with real world problems to solve that will improve people's quality of life. This means that students now have clients or customers who have very specific needs or expectations.



Tips for  
Student Support  
During Covid  
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Fitness Center  
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COVID Didn't  
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It is the students' responsibility to learn how to ask the right questions of their clients to ensure they understand what is expected of them. Then, they need to determine how to construct the desired item in a way that fulfills its function and is durable, cost-effective, and aesthetically pleasing.

Finally, they need to deliver the items to their client on time and make sure the client goes away satisfied. That is one tall order! Little Wolf High School students in woods and metals classes are practicing these skills on a daily basis thanks to Mr. Dan Koehler.

The district did not need to look any further than down the LWHS hall when the badly damaged and unsightly wooden doors on the front of

Real World of Work CONTINUES ON PAGE 2

# Parental Tips for Student Support During Covid

BY DAN WOLFGRAM  
MS/HS PRINCIPAL

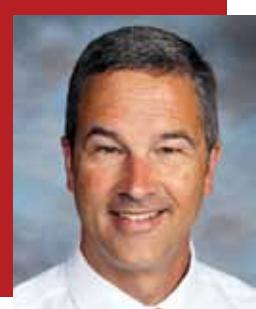
The good news of a COVID-19 vaccine has helped to raise the spirits of many in the community, but students and families are still dealing with hard daily challenges.

We are approaching the middle of the school year and it is more important than ever to help create stability in our student's lives.

Even at the best of times, change creates stress. Parenting is hard and the extra stress of COVID-19 does not make it any easier. Nothing seems normal. You are not alone. Parents like you everywhere are feeling the same.

Following are some tips on how to manage stress in both you and your child's life:

- Talk with your kids about their



fears of COVID-19 and the ways to stay healthy, especially washing hands and staying away from people outside the home, even their best friends.

- You may not be able to maintain the same daily routine you are used to doing. Create a new daily routine that includes eating meals, doing schoolwork, having breaks and getting exercise. You may also consider temporarily relaxing rules regarding on-screen time to give everyone a break.
- You may be experiencing mood swings and erratic behaviors with your child. Students may not have the words to express their current frustrations and their behaviors may be a better indication of their current

stress level.

- High school students may be extra-irritable as they miss out on normal events they looked forward to and the activities they enjoy with their friends. Try to focus on the positive and reinforce the good behaviors your child is demonstrating. Try to set time aside for something that you can do together with your child and let them direct the activity.

- It is important for parents and caregivers to take time for themselves.

- Find healthy ways to decompress. One thing the pandemic has taught us is that we do have resources with other family members. Utilize your technology to visit with loved ones and set time aside to reconnect with those with whom you have lost touch.

Brighter days are certainly on the horizon and it is up to us to find the joy in the day-to-day story we are living.

## Phase 2 School Reopening

Positive cases of COVID-19 and related hospitalizations had been declining both locally and across Waupaca County.

Numbers prior to the winter break were similar to those not seen since back in September. If COVID-19 case numbers continue to decline and/or stabilize, the Board of Education may set a date to return to district-wide in-person instruction.

The Board of Education will consider a plan to return to 4K-12 in-person instruction for all students.

The greatest change will likely be felt by high school students who have been divided in half (A/B cohorts) for the first semester of the school year.

Families would have an option to continue virtual (synchronous or asynchronous) instruction if their child meets the virtual instruction criteria. For proposed plan details, please check out the district webpage.

The Waupaca County Department of Health Services supports this return to in-person instruction as long as the district continues to

practice mitigation strategies to include physical distancing (to the extent possible given room size), use of face coverings, hand washing, and other protocols as suggested by the CDC.

Students in grades 4K-8 would remain in their cohort groups. In the event of an increase in active COVID-19 cases at any point in the future, the School District of Manawa would use the guiding framework to modify modes of instruction to mitigate health risks.

## Real World of Work

FROM PAGE 1

the stage needed to be repaired for the referendum remodeling.

Mr. Koehler's students learned basic carpentry and woodworking skills that they were able to apply immediately to the door project. Consider how proud the students and their teacher were when the handsomely finished doors were installed and on display for all their fellow students, staff and the public to see daily as people enter the MS/HS commons.

Mr. Koehler's students also experience working on community projects and demonstrating what it means to be a good neighbor and citizen.

Sturm/Treehouse Foods commissioned the students to construct benches for their employees to use. The benches feature a sturdy welded frame with wooden slat seats and backrests.

The company provided all the materials and the students provided the skill, time and energy to construct the benches.

Mr. Koehler hopes that a satisfying community partnership may lead to more real world work experiences for his students.



## Board Members Recognized

The Wisconsin Association of School Boards has recognized Manawa School Board President Joanne Johnson and Treasurer Bruce Scheller for their participation in WASB educational opportunities and their service as board officers. Also pictured is District Administrator, Dr. Melanie Oppor.



# Fitness Center Opens to the Public



The new year 2021 brings with it hope and optimism for the future.

For some, a new year's resolution or goal setting may be a familiar practice. Please consider using the School District of Manawa Fitness Center if improving your health through exercise is part of that goal.

The SDM Fitness Center is located at 515 E. Fourth St. on the west side of the middle/high school. Conveniently park and enter the Fitness Center by using the west parking lot entrance at Door H5.

The newly constructed Fitness Center features a high ceiling and many windows to maximize natural lighting. A rubberized flooring material is durable and offers shock absorption.

The Fitness Center offers a variety of cardio machines, weightlifting/resistance equipment and open floor space for stretching, yoga or pilates-style exercise. Community changing rooms are ADA accessible and conveniently located right across the hallway from the Fitness Center.

The Board of Education approved some special stipulations for the public use of the Fitness Center related to COVID-19, including:

- Adhere to BOE-approved SDM Districtwide School Reopening Plan.

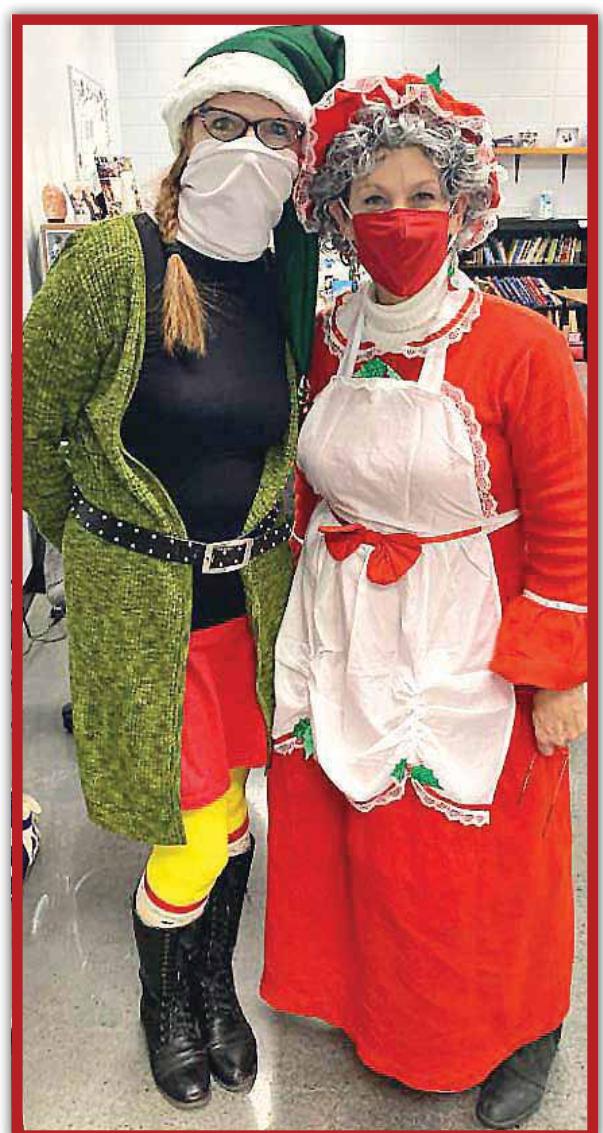


- Maximum limit of 10 users at a time.
- No family members or guests.
- Limited hours as announced.

If you are interested in joining the Fitness Center, please go to the Fitness Center webpage at: <https://www.manawaschools.org/community/fitness-center.cfm> or contact Mrs. Flynn in the District Office at 920-596-2525 for more information.

Each person requesting to use the Fitness Center must complete and submit a School District of Manawa Fitness Center User Agreement and signed copy of the SDM Fitness Center Rules to the District Office located at 800 Beech St. in Manawa.

Use of the Fitness Center is free of charge to SDM staff, Manawa Police Department officers, Manawa Rural Fire Department firefighters, first responders, and citizens age 60 and over.



## SOURCES OF STRENGTH

What are your sources of strength?

What helps you?

Manawa Middle School and Little Wolf High School are introducing Sources of Strength, a peer-led wellness program that seeks to empower students, staff, and the community to provide hope, help, and strength through positive messages and interactions.

While 2020 has provided challenges, 34 peer leaders in grades 6-12 answered the call to be trained in the philosophy of this national program. If people become more attuned to their strengths, they are more likely to use these strengths to conquer the ups and downs of life.



Six staff members were trained through grants and support from Department of Public Instruction and ThedaCare. The adult mentors work with peer leaders to design campaigns to spread positive messaging.

At the heart of Sources of Strength is the Strength Wheel, which highlights eight key areas. Positive mentors, healthy activities, generosity, spirituality, physical health, mental health, family support, and positive friends are the areas in the wheel that students will promote starting in January 2021.

A video explaining the Sources of Strength wheel is available on the district webpage, YouTube channel, and website.

Ms. Anaya and Mrs. Warning show their Christmas spirit at the middle and high school.



Zoe Krueger and Isabel Zirbel show the importance of being the “I” in Kind.

## ‘Kindness Counts’ Down to Christmas

“Welcome to the Early Show with Mrs. Peterson!”

This exclamation was heard every morning in the Manawa Elementary School classrooms throughout December as videos of Mrs. Peterson, our beloved health aide turned morning show host, introduced the daily “Kindness Counts” Down to Christmas Challenge.

In the videos, one lucky “contestant” (staff member) was called forward to open a door on the “Kindness Counts” down calendar made by MES art teacher, Mrs. Bortle. Behind each door was a kindness challenge for the students at MES to complete sometime throughout the day.

“I really enjoyed the challenge where we were encouraged to take time to sit down and watch a Christmas movie with our families,” third-grader Easton Buschke reported when asked what he thought about the challenges. “We watched Elf!”

“I like getting to see the people’s faces when I did something nice,” Brody Rosin said.

With the focus on social/emotional learning and school community, students realized the importance of kindness and the effect one small action can have on so many.

“Being kind to someone could make them be kind to someone else and then the chain could keep going on,” Hunter Phillips remarked.

“The challenges spread Christmas cheer because it makes people think they should do something good too after you do something nice or kind for them,” Sofia Franz added. “It’s like a circle of life, but it’s with kind-

ness.”

Besides enjoying doing the small acts of kindness, the kids really got a kick out of the videos. Olivia Balthazor put it perfectly when she said, “The videos are funny and enthusiastic!”

The month wrapped up with a very special guest opening up Day 24’s challenge door. Santa Claus was caught on video checking out what our “Kindness Counts” Down Challenge was all about.



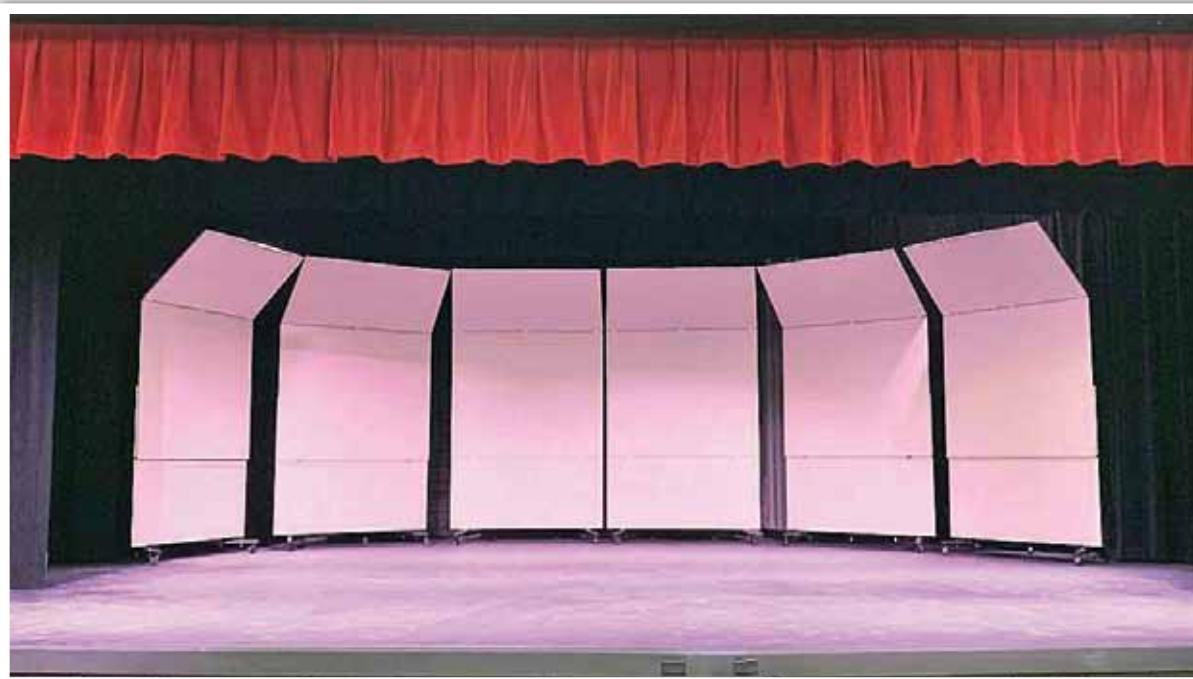
Santa Claus checks out the “Kindness Counts” Down to Christmas calendar.



Olivia Balthazor, Addisyn Niemuth and Gracie Duranceau show off the daily Kindness Challenges.



Carson Stroud, Brody Rosin and Hunter Phillips display the open doors of our “Kindness Counts” Down to Christmas calendar.



The Sturm Foundation provided funding for new acoustical shells at Little Wolf High School. The shells made their debut in December at the school's band and choir holiday concerts.

## Sturm Foundation Purchase

BY DAN WOLFGRAM  
MS/HS PRINCIPAL

On behalf of the music department, the School District of Manawa would like to extend our appreciation to the Sturm Foundation for their annual support of the arts in Manawa.

For the past four years, a strategic plan was implemented to bundle the annual donation for the eventual purchase of acoustical shells for the music department. The value of

the acoustical shells is \$10,000.

The acoustical shells go behind the performance ensemble to help enhance the sound projection by providing a solid surface to help focus the sound into the audience. The shells were debuted at the high school band and choir holiday concerts.

Their sleek design and innovative construction will provide quality sound enhancements for students and patrons for decades to come.



## Testing, Testing, is This Thing On?

One of the biggest tests in high school is the ACT test, a national college entrance exam given to all juniors in Wisconsin on March 9.

The ACT test has four sections, plus a writing test. Students are tested in English, math, reading and science and then complete the writing test.

Each test is timed. Every student is given a composite or overall score and is also given scores on each area of the test.

The highest possible composite score on the ACT is a 36 and the national average is 21. Many colleges and technical schools look at scores of 15 or higher in certain areas, but due to the pandemic, many colleges and technical colleges are not placing admission decision weight on test scores this year.

Yet, the ACT is used for anytime a student wishes to attend college and it is not unusual for students to apply to college several years after graduation.

The ACT is also one of the indicators that the state uses to determine students' readiness for life after high school.

There are a variety of free practice resources available online for students, including practice tests. Best of luck to our Manawa juniors as they take their ACT test on March 9!



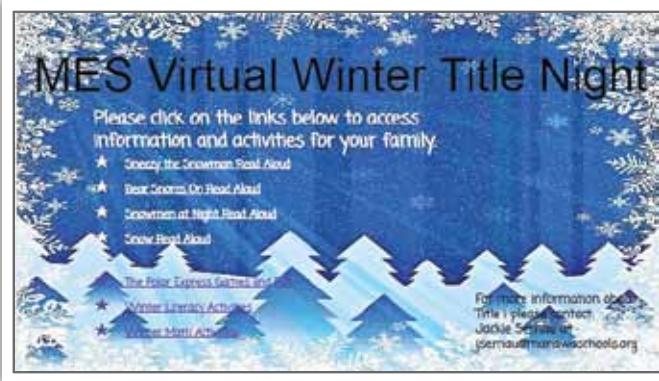
## Winter Family Fun

BY JACQUELYN SERNAU  
READING SPECIALIST/  
TITLE I COORDINATOR

When you think of family fun, you automatically might think about ice fishing, skiing or snowmobiling with the family.

Manawa Elementary School would like to remind you of another opportunity to spend quality time with your child that promotes learning at the same time. Our Winter Title Night Fun page is posted on our district website and is filled with winter read-aloud videos and math activities.

Next time your family is looking for something to do, you don't have to look too far. Just pull up the link, grab a cup of cocoa, and let the fun begin!



# Here's What's Happening in English 9

**BY TRACY KONKOL**

Students in Mrs. Konkol's English 9 classes studied poetry and practiced their creative writing skills in a short unit before Christmas break.

During this time, students learned the literary elements of poetry so they were equipped with the terminology to discuss and deeply analyze each poem. In addition, the freshmen composed two poems of their own.

The first was a parody of a poem we read, "I Was a Skinny Tomboy Kid" by Alma Luz Villanueva, in which they explained two or more characteristics of themselves when they were young children.

The second poem was based on a metaphor. Students compared themselves to an object in an "I Am ..." poem.

This task allowed them to truly understand the concept of personification and pushed them to explore their individual traits and talents. We have many talented writers in English 9.

Freshman students are also strongly encouraged to read at least one independent novel each quarter and complete a project or culminating activity to showcase their understanding of the content.

This activity for the second quarter was a "booktalk" in which students delivered short presentations about their novels. These presentations included discussion of applicable literary elements along with a reading from the novel itself.



Evy Drozd completed her booktalk on "Every Breath" by Nicholas Sparks.

This assignment encouraged students to closely analyze their independent reading, practice their speaking skills and share the books they enjoyed with their classmates.

Students' poems included:

## I Was a Bright, Creative Kid

**BY MYA STEPHENS**

I was a bright, creative kid who found sanctuary in reading chapter books, creating my own stories.  
Overall I soaked in knowledge like a sponge.  
I was fascinated with dinosaurs and animals.  
Almost everyday you could find me watching an animal documentary, or tuning into the latest Dinosaur Train episode.  
I also turned to creative outlets such as Art.  
I loved to draw and paint.  
I often combined this with my love of the sciences, and I drew illustrations of animals, spaceships, and the occasional alien.  
Quickly my favorite subject at school became Art, and would find myself looking forward to this class everyday.  
Even if the particular project we were working on at the time wasn't my favorite.  
The constant inflow of information filled every corner of my brain, making me feel accomplished and smart.  
Though as I grew older the harder it was to harbor creativity.  
Every aspect of modern day life threatens to destroy that side of me, which was one of the biggest attributes of my younger self.  
School, homelife, and societal standards work to drain me.  
Drain me of my creativity and hunger to learn.  
I will not let this happen to me; however, for I recognize this is my best quality.  
An everlasting spark inside me, and though it may dwindle at times ...  
I will never allow it to burn out.



Jolie Jaeger completed her booktalk on "The Rookie" by Jim Morris.



A bulletin board in Mrs. Konkol's room showcases the creative talents of English 9 students.



Cylus Durrant reads from "Guts," a Gary Paulsen collection of true-life stories.

## I Am A Football Game

**BY BRADY ZEMPLE**

I am a football game  
stout like the offensive line  
powerful like the defensive linemen  
hype like the student section  
determined like both of the teams  
elegant like a game under the Friday night lights  
I glow like football field at night

I am a leader like the coach  
funny like the dance-offs at practice  
cool like an October night  
amazing like getting a sack  
hardworking like the offense and defensive line  
patriotic like the national anthem  
pretty like scoring a touchdown  
wanting to win like every great player  
My team is my family



Brady Zemple based his poem "I Am a Football Game" on his experience with Little Wolf High School's football team.

**GO WOLVES! GO WOLVES! GO WOLVES! GO WOLVES! GO WOLVES! GO WOLVES! GO WOLVES!**



# COVID Didn't Stop the Show

BY DANNI BRAUER

MES PRINCIPAL/

DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL EDUCATION

Though we were sad not to be able welcome parents and the community in our building for concerns, Choir Director Carrie Gruman, and 4K Teacher Janet Abbey directed fun and festive virtual winter concerts with the help of other

staff members.

Students in 4K held their performances in their classroom, while grades K-5 performed socially distanced in the gymnasium.

All performances were recorded and uploaded to the District YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCWk6ujxEpCZsPiKPFoOs8yA/featured>.



**Cindy Jaeckle**  
Broker Associate

05562259



Residential Specialist

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cindy.fwr@gmail.com  
FayeWilsonRealty.com

**Wishing the Wolves  
a safe, happy, and  
healthy New Year!  
920-841-2720**



Mike Frazier (center) is recipient of the School District of Manawa's Friend of Education Award for 2020. Manawa School Board President Joanne Johnson (right) presented the award, created in 2018 to recognize a person, family, business or organization within the School District of Manawa whose contributions of time, talents, resources or donations enhance the lives and education of district students. Frazier's wife, Jeanne (left) recently retired from the district.



## Lions Stuff The Bus

Manawa Lions Club member, Tracy Ogle recently delivered two boxes of supplies and a check for the Urgent Needs Fund to provide school supplies for School District of Manawa students. Fellow Lion, Melanie Oppor accepted the funds on behalf of the district.

# 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](mailto: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, ADA and Title IX 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](mailto:cobrien@manawaschools.org)

**Daniel Wolfgram**  
High School/Middle School Principal  
School District of Manawa  
515 E. Fourth Street  
Manawa, WI 54949  
920-596-5310  
[dwolfgram@manawaschools.org](mailto:dwolfgram@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.



follow us on  
**@manawaschools**

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

## 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  
Special Ed. Director: Danielle Brauer  
Technology Director: Bryant Cobarrubias

### Little Wolf High School

Grades 9-12  
**Manawa Middle School**  
Grades 6-8  
Phone: 920-596-2524  
515 E. Fourth Street  
Principal: Daniel Wolfgram

### Manawa Elementary School

Grades PK – 5  
Phone: 920-596-2238  
800 Beech Street  
Principal: Danielle Brauer

### 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: ..... Bruce Scheller  
Director: ..... Russell Hollman  
Director: ..... Stan Forbes  
Director: ..... Lucas Seeger

### Board Meetings:

Regular Board Meetings are held on the third Monday of each month (except April – fourth Monday) in the Board Room located at the Manawa Elementary School at 7 p.m. 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.

**GO WOLVES! GO WOLVES! GO WOLVES! GO WOLVES! GO WOLVES! GO WOLVES! GO WOLVES!**