Medina Public School

December 2026

Volume 44, Issue 4

Community Education Newsletter

Greetings from the Superintendent's Desk



As we head into December, I want to congratulate our MPB volleyball team on another great season! Making it to the state tournament 3 years in a row and finishing as the state runner-up 2 years in a row is a great accomplishment, and we are extremely proud of our players and coaches.

Our volleyball team's success is a good reminder of how important teamwork is. Everyone on a team has a role, and not everyone's role is the same. Some may get more playing time or recognition than others, but that doesn't make anyone else's role less important. It takes everyone working hard, supporting each other, and sometimes making sacrifices for the good of the team to be successful.

The same is true in our school. Our students, teachers, staff, and parents all play an important part in helping our students succeed. We all have different roles, but we need everyone working together and doing their part. Sometimes that means putting others first or making sacrifices to help the group succeed. When everyone is willing to do that, good things happen. I'm thankful for the many people who give their time and effort each day to make our school a great place for our students to learn and succeed.

As we look forward to Christmas, I hope everyone has an opportunity to slow down and enjoy time with family and friends. More importantly, I hope we take time to remember the true meaning of Christmas and the hope and peace that Jesus brings into the world. May we all be reminded of what truly matters during this busy time of year. I wish each of you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Archery Season

Archery season will begin in mid-January. Myron Gunderson will be the coach for the upcoming season. A schedule and more information will be provided as we get closer to the start of the season.

Behavior Expectations at Sporting Events

As we approach the beginning of our winter sports season, I want to remind our fans of the behavior expectations at sporting events. We want sporting events to be a positive experience for our athletes and fans, therefore it's important for everyone to follow the expectations of positive behavior set forth by the NDHSAA. If you plan to attend games this winter, have fun and cheer positively. I encourage everyone to view the expectations on the NDHSAA website. These expectations will also be posted at the entrance of our gymnasium.

Early Dismissal on December 18

School will be dismissed at 12:30 on December 18 to begin the Christmas break. School will resume on Monday, January 4.

Mr. Damon Bosche, Supt/AD

*Unapproved School Board Meeting Minutes

School Board Meeting — Medina Public School District #3
November 13, 2026

Chairman Rory Hoffmann called the board meeting to order at 7:15 AM with the Pledge of Allegiance. Board member Jacob Hofmann was absent and all other board members were present (Rory Hoffmann, Shawn Gefroh, Jeremy Schmidt, Shawn Lachenmeier, Nancy Heinle-Bodvig, and Nolan Kartchner). Supt. Bosche, Principal Hofmann, and Business Manager Moser were also present.

The minutes of the October 16, 2026 regular meeting and October 27, 2026 special board meeting were reviewed. Shawn L. moved to approve the minutes as presented, Nancy seconded, carried unanimously.

The monthly financial report was reviewed and discussed. Jeremy moved to approve the financial report, Nolan seconded, carried unanimously.

The monthly bills and payroll were reviewed. Shawn G. moved to pay all bills and payroll, Shawn L. seconded, carried unanimously.

Agenda Additions/Deletions: State Volleyball tournament

Recognize guests: none.

Public comments: none.

Consensus of board to not move forward with any of the 14 passenger bus bids, due to finding/ purchasing used buses.

Superintendent evaluation was reviewed. Supt. Bosche received a 3.76 out of 4 rating. Nolan moved to approve the evaluation, Jeremy seconded, roll call vote: SG-y, NH-y, NK-y, SL-y, JS-y, RH-y – Motion carried 6-0.

Roof project for summer 2027 – would complete the entire high school roof – estimate of $525,131. Due to size of project, we would need to hire an architect to design plans/specs and bid project.

Discussion of Jr. High & Elementary game ticket prices: currently we charge $2 adult and $1 student for elementary games and $4 adult and $2 student for Jr. High games. Shawn G. moved to increase prices to $5 adult and $3 student for JH/Elementary games, Jeremy seconded, roll call vote: NH-y, NK-y, SL-y, JS-y, RH-y, SG-y – Motion carried 6-0.

HVAC Monthly maintenance agreement – increased 8% – discussion – Mr. Bosche will check around for other options.

Nancy left the meeting at 7:45 am.

Building fund CD matures today and general fund CD matures in December. Consensus of board to rollover CD with current rate of 4% for seven months.

Congratulations to the MPB Volleyball team who are the Region 1 Champions and are going to the State Tournament for the 3rd year in row! State tournament will be next week – Thursday-Saturday in Bismarck. Depending on the bracket and times of our games, school may be cancelled Thursday and Friday. Board consensus to allow the administration to decide the school schedule after the tournament seating is announced.

Superintendent/AD Report: Paraprofessional Brenda Wahl has submitted her resignation and we will post that open position soon, new folding chairs for gym (250) – an area company may be able to provide funds toward this purchase, along with new risers with railings. Congratulations to Violet Bohl named Regional Senior Athlete of the Year; and congratulations to Destiny Opp and Violet Bohl on being named to the All Region team.

Principal Report: Kramlich family fundraiser, PBIS monthly behavior celebrations, legislator visited our school, Student Council harvest dance was well attended (90+ students), 6th grade hosted area veterans on 11/12 with a program. The next regular meeting will be on Friday, December 11, 2026 at 7:15 am. Nolan moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:03 am.

/s/ Rory Hoffmann, Chairman
/s/ Dawn Moser, Business Manager

** These minutes are unapproved and subject to change at the 12/11/26 meeting.*

ATTENTION SENIORS & SENIOR PARENTS:



It's that time of year, seniors! The yearbook needs a few things from you. Please send to Mrs. Hayes (or stop by with an actual photo) your senior photo, a baby photo and a quote you'd like to have in the yearbook. These are due February 1st. If you bring in an actual photo, it can be scanned and given back to you right away.

Congratulations on getting to the half-way point in your senior year! Enjoy all the memories you have made and will make this year!

Mrs. Jennifer Hayes, Yearbook Advisor

jennifer.hayes@k12.nd.us

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE



FOMO — If you have kids in school, you probably know what that means: "fear of missing out." When a student misses school, they miss out. There are lots of things happening: academic learning as well as social interactions. We want our kids to be at school!

We want them to be in school all day, and we want them to be on time. Back when I was in high school, I went to a week-long away camp. At the beginning of camp, the director shared a motto with us: "If you're early, you're on time; if you're on time, you're late; if you're late, you're left." I feel like this is true at school, too. If you get to school a little before 8:30, you have time to prepare your mind and body for your day of learning. When you arrive to class just in time, you feel rushed. And if you're late, you miss some important announcements or information. We encourage our students to get to school with plenty of time to be prepared to begin learning at 8:30 a.m.

We do have a few policies regarding attendance. Students are expected to be in their afternoon classes if they plan to attend and/or participate in an after-school activity, whether it be at our school, a tournament, or an away game. If students have a scheduled appointment that interferes with this policy, please contact Mr. Bosche or Mrs. Hofmann prior to the day to get approval.

Another policy that is important with attendance is the number of student absences. North Dakota Century Code states that students cannot miss more than 20 days of school, which is 10 days per semester. When students miss 10 or more days, they are required to make up missed instructional time. If this time doesn't get made up, students are in danger of not receiving credit for their classes, which counts toward graduation requirements for our high school students. It is important that students attend school starting early in their school career so it becomes the expectation. We do address attendance with all ages.

It is also important to be on time. When students are tardy and miss part of class, it affects their learning. We also have protocols in place to address tardiness.

We want to see your child(ren) every day! We want them to be here to learn and share experiences with us. We know sicknesses can affect attendance, and we want them to be home when needed. On the other days, we want them here. We don't want them to experience FOMO!

Mrs. Tara Hofmann, Principal

MUSIC DEPARTMENT NEWS

Christmas Concerts

The High School (7th-12th) Christmas concert will be held Thursday, December 3rd at 7:30pm and will include 7th & 8th band, 7th & 8th choir, HS band, and HS choir. Dress code for girls is a black dress and black shoes (a black skirt with black shirt is also acceptable). 7th & 8th grade boys need to wear black pants, a white shirt, and black shoes. A tie is optional. High School boys' dress code is black pants, black shoes, and the provided black shirt and red tie.

The elementary students will present their concert on Thursday, December 10th at 7:00pm. Performing groups include the Kindergarten class, 1st-3rd choir, 4th-6th choir, 5th grade band, and 6th grade band. All students can wear nice dress clothes of their choice.

Join us as we celebrate this wonderful time of the year!

Another Successful Kuchen Fundraiser

Thank you to everyone who supported the music department by purchasing kuchen! Students, parents, and a few generous community members baked 1,642 kuchen on November 11th, 13th, and 14th at Crystal Springs Baptist Camp. All proceeds will be used for our March 2027 band and choir trip to Branson.

Kylie Moser Named to North Dakota Junior High Honor Choir



571 students from 58 schools around North Dakota auditioned for 190 singing slots in the ND Junior High Honor choirs, and Medina 7th grader Kylie Moser was selected for the Treble Choir. She will rehearse and perform with other ND junior high students at Red River High school in Grand Forks on February 5th & 6th. A public concert will be held at Red River High School on Saturday afternoon, February 6th (time TBA). Tickets are $5. Congratulations, Kylie!

~ Mrs. Bosche

BRIAN RAU HONORED BY MEDINA LIONS CLUB

Melvin Jones founded Lions clubs international in 1917 in Chicago, inspiring civic minded business leaders to use their talent to improve communities. In 1973, the Melvin Jones Award was started by honoring individuals who embody his spirit of “Useful Generosity”. This is the highest individual recognition in Lions Club International Foundation – LCIF. When a Lions Club contributes $1000 to a LCIF, they are able to present this award to someone of this standing. This award is often given to an outstanding lions member, but is not limited to Lions club members

The Medina Lions Club honored Brian Rau with a Melvin Jones award. Brian has accomplished so much for the Medina community. Brian has served on the ambulance, fire and rescue since around 1988. But he didn't stop with just serving, he advanced training in all those fields. He became the first Medina paramedic and didn't stop with that ; he went on to train others in the field of EMS.

He coordinated the EMS system with developing First Responder Teams in the surrounding towns of Woodworth and Pettibone and Streeter. There were times when he would get out of his farm machinery to answer an emergency call and has gone so far as to land his plane when necessary. Brian's dedication to our community has been outstanding. The phrase “always be humble and kind” describes Brian and he seldom wants credit or praise. Please thank him for his service when you see him.



DINNER & AUCTION FUNDRAISER

Hosted by:

MEDINA BOOSTER CLUB

2027

SATURDAY | 2 | JANUARY

MEDINA CITY HALL

SOCIAL HOUR 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM FOLLOWED BY DINNER, GUN RAFFLES, SILENT & LIVE AUCTIONS

$50 TICKET INCLUDES: ADMISSION TO THE EVENT, PRIME RIB MEAL & DESSERT, AND EXCLUSIVE ENTRY TO WIN A RUGER 10/22 TAKEDOWN 22

BUY YOUR TICKETS TODAY!

Veterans Day Celebration

The 6th grade class honored Veterans to celebrate Veterans Day this year. Students invited family or friends who have served in the military to come to our class and share about their service. We were so happy to have 6 Veterans join us on November 12th. The Veterans shared about their service and experiences, and the students had great questions to help them understand more about how important Veterans are to our country.

We also invited the Veterans to eat lunch with us so we had more time to chat and get to know them. It was a wonderful time that was so impactful and meaningful for our students and Veterans. Thank you again Veterans for your service to our country! We appreciate you!!

~ Mrs. Cassula and the 6th grade class



Just Say No Club News

We would like to thank Medina Cenex, Guthmiller Earthmoving Inc. and Dakota Heritage Bank for their generous donations to our Just Say No Club. Their continued support is very appreciated!

We will be having our annual Just Say No Pizza and Basketball Fun Night on Friday, December 4th in the Commons Area and school gym right after school. A snack will be served after school and pizza will be served for supper.



Parents are asked to pick up the students by 7:00 pm.

Please contact Tammy at 701-320-0142 if you have any questions.

Tammy Schlecht, JSN Advisor

How I Would Make a Thanksgiving Turkey for my Family!

(According to the Kindergarten Class — Recipes not kitchen tested)

Rikki: Mom will buy it, almost 3. Cook it in the kitchen till it's hot hot hot. Eat yummy meat, drink juice, cereals for dessert.

Mara: I will get my turkey from Walmart and it will cost 15 cents. I will microwave it for 6 seconds and 1 minute. We will also have whipped cream and sprinkles. We will drink water.

Gibson: I will get it from Hugo's for $1. I am going to grill it and I'm going to cook it really good for 18 minutes. We will have roast beef and mashed potatoes. We will drink lemon juice. No dessert.

Leland: $1 for a turkey at Walmart. Microwave it for 9mins to cook it. We will have mashed potatoes. We will drink water and no desserts.

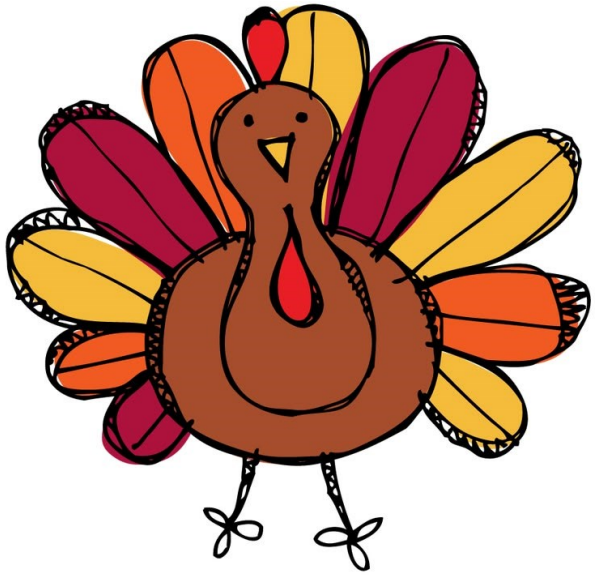
Asher: At Walmart for $2. Grill the turkey at 200 degrees for 3 hours. I want mashed potatoes, ham and eggs, bacon. For drinks we will have pops root beer and beer. Ice cream and Oreo malts for dessert.

Andrew: I will get it from Walmart it will cost $10. In the oven it will be 80degrees and cook for 10mins. Um we will eat corn, cucumbers and carrots, olives and pickles. We will drink pop, sprite and root beer. I want caramel ice-cream and Oreo cookies.

Grant: Turkey will come from Walmart and it's free. Will grill it 1 billion degrees for 8 mins. We will have mashed potatoes and bacon. We will drink sprite and mountain dew. Oreo ice cream for dessert.

Sadie: I am going to hunt for it, it will be really cool cause then I can see it. Cook it in the oven it has to be a little bit hot, um cook it for 10 or 5mins yes 5mins. It's done when the minutes are off. Let's eat it with a fork, have mashed potatoes, stuffing, and chocolate milk if we can get some. We will also have pumpkin pie or cake.

Ady: Me and mom will make pumpkin pie and I love pumpkin pie. Our drink will be white milk. We our going to get our turkey from like in the South America it's far away and you have to drive the car. Also, my dad can shoot turkeys. We are going to cook it in our one that has an opening thing that has two stacks 20 seconds and 5:30 it has to be 4 and a 0 hot. We will have mashed potatoes and mostly lettuce cheese tomatoes ranch, then corn.



Alayna: We will get our turkey from Walmart and it will be $3. My dad has a grill and we will grill it probably just warm for 5mins. I'll have pumpkin pie. I'll ask my dad if I can have chocolate milk.

Arielle: Turkey will come from Walmart and it's $20. Cook on the grill for 3 hours it has to be at 30 degrees. We will eat steak with it cranberries and some chicken. White milk to drink and have pumpkin pie.

Kashtyn: Turkey will come from Walmart and it's zero dollars. We will cook it on the grill at 61 degrees for 1 minute. I want mac and cheese. To drink we will have Dr. Pepper. We can make ice-cream.

Alexander: Turkey from Walmart $0. Cook it on the stove at 100 degrees for 5mins. It's done by making sure it's not tannish and its brown. We will have meat, roast beef that's it. Milk to drink has to be chocolate. Donuts will be our dessert.

Leighton: I think my dad will hunt a turkey. I think we have a grill but I don't know know where it is. I like um has to be this hot (showed her fingers) maybe cook it for 1minute. I don't know how you know it done. Dessert, I think we will have ice-cream. Um it's going to be juice or milk to drink.

Continued on page 7

How I Would Make a Thanksgiving Turkey for my Family!

(According to the Kindergarten Class — Recipes not kitchen tested)

… Continued from page 6

Eastyn: I am going to hunt it for my family. Cook it in the oven it has to be hot and then way hotter and I will cook it for 6mins. It's done when the oven is done cooking it. We will have pink frosting with it on a cake for dessert. We will drink water and chocolate milk.

Faron: Walmart pickup and it will be $2. Cook it on the stove as hot as fire for 2mins. It's done when it's kinda brown. Mac and cheese and apples with it. I will have water to drink. I want pumpkin pie because I've never had it.

Chesney: At the Dollar General store and maybe it will be $5. My dad will cook it on his grill at like 70 degrees for 10 hours. We will have corn with stuffing on it and ham with baked cheese. If I had orange juice, we would have that. I and my 2 sisters will have bubble gum ice cream, mom and dad will have moose tracks ice cream.

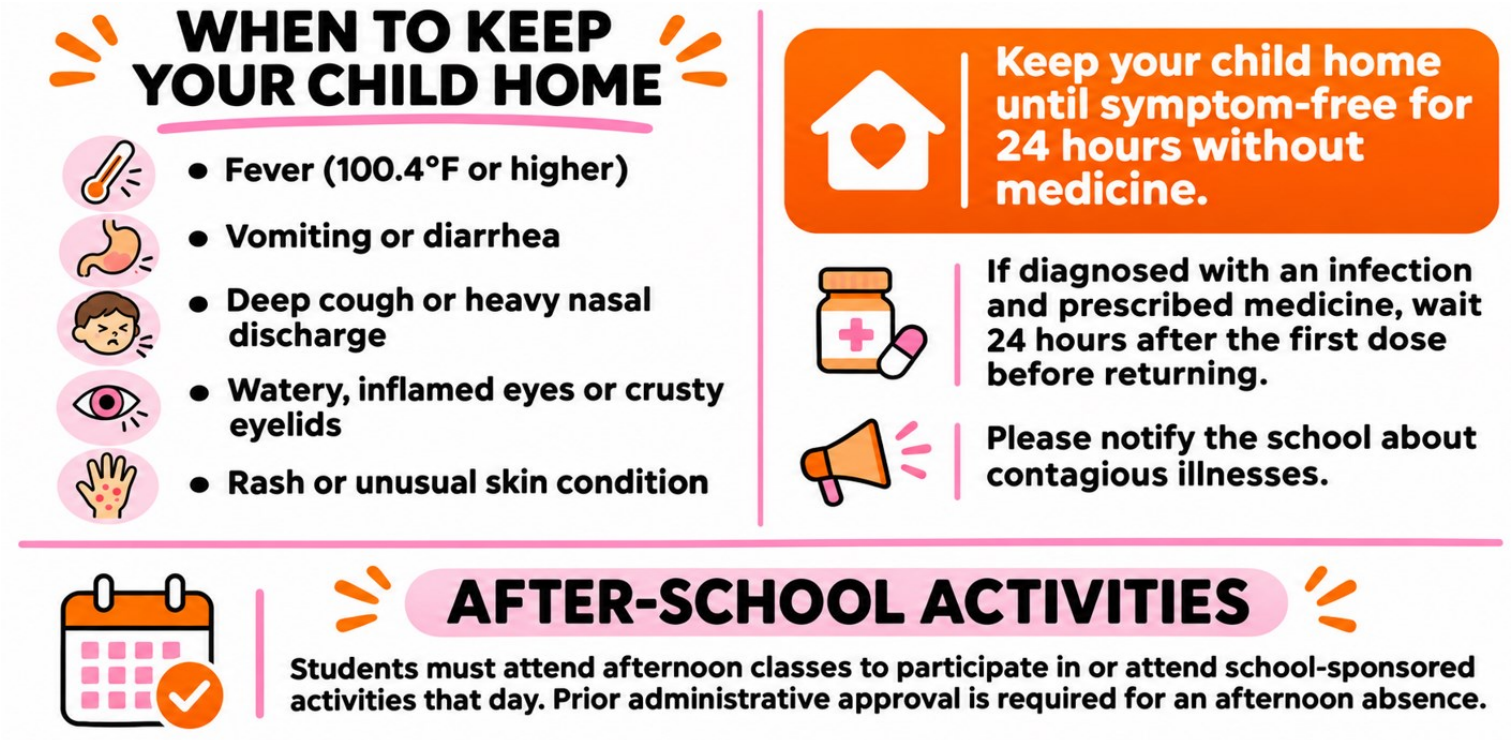


Boden: I think we will get it from a store but I don't know which one it will probably be $25. We will grill it at like 85 temperature for 25 minutes. I think we will have mashed potatoes, baked carrots, beef stew and for dessert we will have grandpa's chocolate cake and a little bit of ice cream and maybe some candy from our trick or treat basket. I think we will drink kid wine, milk and water.

Briar: I am going to hunt my turkey. On the grill I will cook it at 100 degrees for 1 hour. It's done because we turn it off and we have a clock to help. We will have deer sausage, beef, pork, mashed potatoes and gravy and strawberries. To drink I want Mountain Dew. Monkey bread, chocolate cake, and ice cream for dessert.

We may not know whose family will end up with the "BEST" turkey, but we wish you all a Thanksgiving filled with laughter, joy, and maybe a little friendly turkey rivalry! Safe travels and may your stuffing be plentiful!

Happy Thanksgiving! ***Mrs. Perleberg & Ms. Dockter***



City of Medina Council Minutes

City of Medina Regular Meeting October 5, 2026 7:00 PM

The regular meeting of the City of Medina, Stutsman County, was called to order at 7:02 PM in the Memorial Hall. Present was Mayor Randy Everding, CM Audrey Bosche, CM Bill Busch, CM Joe Deede (at 7:22 PM). Absent CM Joe Schmidt. Sid Higdem (City Worker) and Rhonda Schlecht (Auditor) present. Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Minutes were read. CM Bill motioned, 2nd CM Audrey to approve the minutes from the September 14th meeting as read. All ayes, no nays – motion carried. Absent CM Joe S. and CM Joe D. CM Bill motioned, 2nd CM Audry to approve the September 14th Budget meeting. All ayes, no nays – motion carried. Absent CM Joe S.

Visitors: Arlyn Schmidt, Brian Buskness (observe), Mark Freier (observe), Deputy Potter

Public Comment – Arlyn Schmidt congratulated all of the new board members. Arlyn discussed the Legion parking lot where the city piles snow. The Legion has aging members and struggle with finances. Arlyn expressed that they want to keep the legion building for the community and if the City is ever interested in it they would love for the City to take it over. There is interest in someone buying the parking lot but the Legion would like to keep the property together. If the City could help them out and the City would still have a place to pile the snow. This is tabled till next meeting and options will be explored as to a possible lease agreement.

Visitors recognized for Agenda: NONE

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT – The roof is repaired on the hall. A quote for wurley birds or different venting has not been received. Fish station had an inline sewer vent fan installed and Advantage Electric needs to come and finish the wiring. The drop box is also installed in the fish station. Greg Mittleider finished the water sales building. The excursion has thrown some codes so when they come on again it will be taken to Farmers Union Oil to see what they are. Sid has tried to contact multiple companies to come and shred at the compost and with no responses. CM Joe S. has spoke with a company out of Minot that Jamestown uses and they will contact us when they come down to do work in Jamestown. CM Bill will check with a company in Fargo. Sid gave a sample draft of request for proposal outline that could be used on the city auditor's email to see if we can locate a shredder. The lot's on State St NE East of 303 State St NE inquired for water/sewer and on a camper lot. Sewer costs would be assessed to every lot and the camper that is on a private lot should have his own water/sewer. The developer is responsible for those costs. Sid will need help installing the "Your Speed" sign on School St and moving the current sign. DPC conducted their annual lift station inspection. A meter head is in for Kramlich-Deede Meats and will be installed. The new meters have been reprogrammed. The lift at 304 NP St NW was pumped down there was sewage in it and the lift is not in use and the sewer main is capped. Sid did not hear any water coming back in. The board would like Sid to check if the lift filled up again. Val Flegel (108 7th Ave NE) has a badger by her house and was inquiring if the city can assist with this. Sid will check with a couple of people who have trapped animals. Sid needs coverage for the weekends of October 10th and October 23rd. Plant is running good. The council needs to let Sid know when installation of the eaves and rain gutters can be done.

OLD BUSINESS – Service bills were discussed and the special assessment form was presented for submission to Stutsman County. The laundromat cameras can be tied to the current system at the fish cleaning station with two cameras inside and one outside. The compost can not be tied into this system so other options were discussed and will be explored.

CM Joe D. motioned, 2nd CM Audrey to submit the Special Assessment Certification form to Stutsman County with 3 delinquent service bills. All ayes, no nays – motion carried. Absent CM Joe S.

CM Joe D. motioned, 2nd CM Audrey to purchase the camera from Jamestown Communications for $3,985.20. All ayes, no nays – motion carried. Absent CM Joe S.

CM Audrey motioned, 2nd CM Bill to transfer $3,985.20 from sales tax to general for the cameras at the laundromat. All ayes, no nays – motion carried. Absent CM Joe S.

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA – Auditor Rhonda will explore paying off a loan and the city owning the remainder of a special assessment. Auditor Rhonda shared that the city website needs to be updated to ADA compliant by April 2027 (this a law) and OnSharp is getting us an estimate of what this will cost. Cleaning applications were tabled. Discussion on garbage at the private camping spots and a letter will be sent. Emmy Hofmann inquired if a Christmas tree could be placed somewhere on the East side of the water tower and have electricity, have the 4-H group decorate the Christmas trees that are in the city's basement the second weekend of November and use the hall November 28th for Hometown Christmas. The board approved all of Emmy's requests with the addition of $100 deposit for the hall which would be returned if clean up is OK. Second reading of the mowing ordinance was done and passed.

CM Bill motioned, 2nd CM Audrey to let CD # 866923, 866924, 866925 to roll over into a 7 Month rate of 4.00% at Dakota Heritage Bank. All Ayes, no nays – motioned carried. Absent CM Joe S.

CM Audrey motioned, 2nd CM Joe D. to transfer $30,537.21 for loan payment # 561014100000 from #78604 to general. All ayes, no nays – motion carried. Absent CM Joe S.

CM Audrey motioned, 2nd CM Bill to pay Auditor Rhonda's base cell phone rate of $55. All ayes, no nays – motion carried. Absent CM Joe S.

CM Joe D. motioned, 2nd CM Audrey to pay OnSharp (website provider) $53.75 to provide consultation. All ayes, no nays – motion carried. Absent CM Joe S.

CM Joe D. motioned, 2nd CM Bill to increase the machine hire rates by 25%. The man hours will remain at the employee's current pay rate at time of hire and mileage charges (current IRS mileage reimbursement rate). All ayes, no nays – motion carried. Absent CM Joe S.

CM Audrey motioned, CM Bill to pay Lion Service Group bill as presented for $20,352.69. BB-Y, AB-Y, JD-sustained, JS-Absent. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS – Rory Hoffmann from the park inquired if they could use a portion of the tourism funds to install sewer in the camping spots. Discussion. Tabled. Discussion on Building and Fence Ordinance.

PRESENTATION OF BILL – CM Joe D. motioned, 2nd CM Audrey to pay the bills that were presented. All ayes, no nays – motioned carried. Absent CM Joe S.

ADJOURN – CM Audrey motioned, 2nd CM Joe D. to adjourn the meeting at 9:50 PM. All ayes, no nays – motion carried. Absent CM Joe S.

/s/ Randy Everding, Mayor
/s/ Rhonda Schlecht, Auditor

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

December 2026

Helping Children Learn®

Tips Families Can Use to Help Children Do Better in School

Medina Public School

Motivate your child by showing enthusiasm for education



When you stay aware and involved with what your elementary schooler is doing in school, you send your child a motivating message: "I care about you and your education, and I want to help you be successful."

Repeat this message often in a variety of ways. Here's how:

- **Review schoolwork.** Completing the work is your child's responsibility, but doing a regular review will show you what your child is learning. Monitor the status of assignments, tests, and projects and your child's progress.
- **Make your home a place for learning.** Help your child create a study area in a spot with few distractions. Highlight connections between what your child is learning and life outside school. Also introduce your child to new ideas and talk about things you have learned recently. This shows your child that learning is something people do all their lives.
- **Be a positive voice.** Your attitude rubs off on your child. Whenever possible, mention something your child has learned that sounds interesting, and try to find out more together. Express appreciation for things teachers and school staff do. "I like the way Ms. Craig gives you a study packet before your tests."

Five strategies expand vocabulary

A strong vocabulary supports your child's reading ability. Words that are familiar are easier for students to decode, and knowing the meaning of many words helps your child comprehend the overall meaning of text passages.

To grow your child's vocabulary:

1. **Read many kinds** of books together. If you usually read fiction, try a book that explains how something works. Or, read a book about a sport or activity your child enjoys.
2. **Talk about words** your child may not know as you read aloud. "This says that armadillos are *nocturnal*. Do you know what that means? Let's look it up."
3. **Use a thesaurus** to help your child learn words with similar meanings to commonly used words. "The moon tonight is *bright*, *brilliant* and *luminous*!"
4. **Listen for new words** as you watch the news and other shows together. Look them up.
5. **Make a personal dictionary.** After learning a new word, have your child write the word and its meaning in a notebook.

Ask your child to think

Your child is learning to think analytically and draw conclusions. To provide practice:



- **Ask questions** that require thought. After watching a show, ask your child, "Why do you think the character did that? Do things like that happen in real life?"
- **Consider different points of view.** When discussing a topic, ask "How do you think someone else might feel about it?"
- **Think out loud** when you make a decision. Ask your child to brainstorm the pros and cons of each option with you.

Express high expectations

Having high, realistic expectations for your child fosters achievement. To establish them:

- **Factor in** your child's development, personality and maturity.
- **Focus** on key school success behaviors.
- **Explain** them in simple, clear terms.

Source: M. Pinquart & M. Ebeling, "Parental Educational Expectations and Academic Achievement in Children and Adolescents—a Meta-analysis," *Educational Psychology Review.*

Gift-making is enriching



Making gifts helps develop small motor, problem-solving and communication skills—and lets your child experience the pleasure that comes from giving. Your elementary schooler could:

- **Write a poem** about a special person.
- **Decorate a picture frame** and add a photo of your child with the person.
- **Draw 12 pictures** and use them to make a calendar for 2027.
- **Read a book aloud** and record it for a younger sibling to listen to while reading.

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ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Helping Children Learn®

Tips Families Can Use to Help Children Do Better in School

December 2026

Q&A What can I do to manage study time more effectively?

Q: My two children approach assignments very differently. The older one spends hours a day on them and asks for my help constantly. The younger one races through, or claims not to have any work to do. Is there a happy medium?



A: While teachers' homework practices vary, your childrens' opposite approaches to doing the work can be managed by taking the same three steps:

1. **Contact their teachers.** Ask about time expectations for assignments. Hours a day is likely more than your older child's teacher expects. Could it be so much because your child isn't finishing classwork in school? Your younger child's teacher may plan more in-class assignments, or may have suggestions for specific material your child should focus on at home.
2. **Set an appropriate daily study time** for each child. If there are no assignments, they can read, solve math problems or review. A set amount of time gives your younger child less incentive to rush through work.
3. **Provide structure.** At the start of every study session, go over the work your children have to do. Help them set priorities and make to-do lists. Stay nearby, but encourage your older child to work independently. Check at the end that they have completed everything on their lists.

Parent Quiz Are you helping ease test anxiety?

It's common for children to be nervous before a test. But panicking can keep your child from performing up to capability. Are you helping your elementary schooler manage test anxiety? Answer *yes* or *no* below:

1. **Do you help** your child create and follow a study plan? Feeling prepared reduces anxiety.
2. **Do you say** that test scores won't affect your love for your child?
3. **Do you urge** your child to talk to the teacher about test fears? The teacher may be able to offer reassurance or strategies for coping.
4. **Do you suggest** self-talk your child can repeat, such as "I know this. It will come to me"?
5. **Do you practice** calming techniques with your child, like deep breathing and counting backwards from 100?

How well are you doing?

More yes *answers mean you are helping take the fear out of tests. For each* no, *try that idea.*

"Today has no idea it's about to meet your awesome face. You've got this."
—Kid President

Make time for math talk

Talking about math can strengthen your child's confidence and competence in the subject. To prompt math conversations:

- **Ask questions.** When your child solves a math problem, ask, "How did you get your answer?" Explaining helps children clarify thinking—and catch errors.
- **Add math to games,** such as Simon Says ("Simon says add 18 plus 18"). On the road, take turns solving problems using numbers on signs. If the speed limit is 65, players can solve 6+5, 6-5 and 6×5.



Offer praise that's deserved

Praising your child's effort and achievements provides encouragement. But too much *unearned* praise can reduce motivation. Offer compliments that are:

- **Specific** and detailed. Highlight behaviors you want your child to repeat.
- **Accurate.** Rather than saying "You're the best piano player ever, say "You are making real progress playing smoothly!"
- **Meaningful.** Save praise for times when your child has really earned it.

Is your child missing out?

There is a clear relationship between early grade attendance and later achievement. Kids who attend classes regularly in the early grades carry the habit forward and are more likely to graduate. Students who miss a lot of school in kindergarten are still frequently absent in fifth grade—and missing learning.

If you are unsure how many days your child has missed this year, check with the school. It's not too late to get back on track.

Source: "Attendance Awareness Campaign," Attendance Works.

Helping Children Learn®

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DECEMBER 2026



Breakfast served daily from 8:05-8:25 AM. Salad bar & milk served at lunch daily. Menu subject to change.
Families are welcome — please make prior arrangements with the office.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	30 ***JH GBB @ Medina 4:30*** ***1st day of BBB practice***	1 Knoephla Soup Sandwiches ~~~~~~~~~~ ***Bookmobile*** ***GBB vs. Maple Valley @ Medina*** ***JH 4:30 JV 6:00 V 7:30***	2 Popcorn Chicken French Fries	3 Spaghetti Corn ~~~~~~~~~~ ***High School Christmas Concert 7:30*** 	4 Taco in a Bag ~~~~~~~~~~ ***Just Say No Club Fun Night 3:30-7:00***	5 ***7th Grade GBB Jamboree @ Hazelton***
6 	7 Sloppy Joes Baked Beans Coleslaw ~~~~~~~~~~ ***1st day JH BBB practice***	8 Tomato Soup Grilled Cheese ~~~~~~~~~~ ***JH GBB @ Napoleon 4:30***	9 Fried Sausage Oven Roasted Potatoes 	10 Fish Sticks French Fries ~~~~~~~~~~ ***Elementary Christmas Concert 7:00*** 	11 Dakota Nachos ~~~~~~~~~~ ***School Board mtg. 7:15am*** ***FFA Christmas party 7:00 PM***	12 ***BBB @ Linton*** ***JV @ 12:30*** ***Varsity @ 2:00***
13	14 Chicken Alfredo w/ Pasta ~~~~~~~~~~ ***BBB vs. Maple Valley @ Medina*** ***JV 5:30 Varsity 7:00***	15 Chili Garlic Toast Cottage Cheese ~~~~~~~~~~ ***GBB @ Warwick*** ***JH 4:30 JV 6:00 Varsity 7:30***	16 Philly Cheesesteak Sandwich Potato Smiles ~~~~~~~~~~ ***Bookmobile***	17 General Tso's Chicken Rice ~~~~~~~~~~ ***GBB vs. L-HMB @ Medina*** ***JH 4:30 JV 6:00*** ***Varsity 7:30***	18 Sack Lunch ~~~~~~~~~~ ***End of 2nd Quarter*** ***GBB @ Jmst Civic Ctr.*** ***JV @ 12:00*** ***Varsity @ 1:30***	19 ***GBB @ Jmst Civic Ctr.*** ***Varsity only 6:30*** 
20	21 	22	23	24 	25 	26
27	28 ***GBB @ BSC 9:00 AM*** ***BBB @ BSC 10:30 AM***	29 ***GBB @ BSC 10:30 AM*** ***BBB @ BSC 12:00 NOON***	30 ***GBB @ BSC 9:00 AM*** ***BBB @ BSC 10:30 AM***	31	1 	2 ***Medina Booster Club Dinner/Raffle/ Silent Auction Fundraiser*** ***Medina City Hall*** ***Social 5:00 Dinner 6:00***

SCHOOL CHRISTMAS VACATION
NO SCHOOL UNTIL JANUARY 4, 2027

Abbreviations: JH BBB = Junior High Boys Basketball JH GBB = Junior High Girls Basketball GBB = High School Girls Basketball BBB = High School Boys Basketball

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We enter to learn,
We leave to achieve.

