MAHTOMEDI
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

ANNUAL REPORT
TO OUR COMMUNITY

2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR



Leadership Update

On behalf of the Mahtomedi School Board and District, we are pleased to share the 2024–25 Annual Report to the Community. This report highlights key district data and celebrates the academic excellence of Mahtomedi Public Schools. We are proud to share accomplishments from the past year that reflect our continued commitment to student learning and future readiness.

At the **elementary level**, Mahtomedi launched a new K–5 literacy curricular resource, Wit & Wisdom, as part of a multi-year effort to build a strong literacy system aligned with the Science of Reading. All K–5 educators participated in professional development to support this transition. Educators completed the first half of LETRS training, strengthening instruction in reading, spelling, and language development, with the second half continuing in 2025–26. To support high-quality instruction, the district invested in more than 12,000 new books and student journals. Wit & Wisdom, selected after a comprehensive review, is one of only five programs in Minnesota designated as highly aligned with the Science of Reading, ensuring a clear and systematic approach to foundational skills and language comprehension.

At **Mahtomedi Middle School**, sixth-grade students strengthened reading and critical thinking skills through a dedicated literacy course designed to support success across all subjects. This sememster-long literacy course focuses on summarizing, annotating, identifying main ideas, and understanding the author's purpose. Developed by MMS teacher Laura Tussey, the course emphasizes academic vocabulary, effective note-taking, and comprehension strategies that support learning in science, social studies, and math, building a strong foundation for middle school and beyond.

At **Mahtomedi High School**, students benefit from expanded college and career-preparatory opportunities that reflect strong community investment. New courses during the 2024-25 school year include AP Pre-Calculus, DECA Seminar/Internship, and the AVID Elective. MHS English courses in 2024-25 expanded to include a variety of options, including Tales of Gods and Heroes, War Narratives in Literature, Suspense Fiction, Sci-Fi and Dystopian Fiction, Workplace Communication, Creative Fiction, Voices of America, and British Literature. In addition, MHS has continued its strong partnership with Northeast Metro 916 Career and Technical Center, which provides students access to hands-on training and certifications in high-demand fields such as nursing, EMS, automotive technology, and construction.

On November 4, 2025, the Mahtomedi community approved a two-question referendum supporting operating revenue and facility improvements. We are deeply grateful for this investment in our students and schools. This support allows us to maintain manageable class sizes, strong academic programming, and long-term financial stability. As facilities planning moves forward, we remain committed to transparency, partnership, and ongoing communication.

We extend our thanks to outgoing Board Chair Stacey Stout for her leadership for the past four years. And we thank our community for their continued support in preparing confident learners to thrive today and in their future.



Barb Duffrin
Superintendent



Kelly Reagan
School Board Chair

OUR SCHOOLS & PROGRAMS

Mahtomedi Early Childhood & Preschool
Wildwood Elementary School (K-2)
O.H. Anderson Elementary School (3-5)
Mahtomedi Middle School (6-8)
Mahtomedi High School (9-12)
Passages Transition Program
Mahtomedi Community Education

Mahtomedi Public Schools

AT A GLANCE

Our Students (2024-25)

3,285 STUDENTS ENROLLED

14.1% SPECIAL EDUCATION

12.7% EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS

1.7% ENGLISH LEARNERS

Highlights (2024-25)

98%
Mahtomedi High School's graduation rate continues to be among the highest in the state of Minnesota
(Minnesota Dept. of Education, Class of 2024 data)

Consistently scores among the top in the state on the MCAs
(MDE)

A
Overall grade for Minnesota traditional school districts; ranked 10th overall
(Niche.com)

#7
Best Traditional High Schools in Minnesota
(U.S. News & World Report, 2025)

One of 7% of all eligible schools in the U.S. and Canada to earn AP School Honor Roll Gold
(AP/College Board, 2025)

95%
Mahtomedi families that would recommend Mahtomedi Public Schools to other families
(2024-25 Mahtomedi Public Schools Family Survey)

95%
Mahtomedi families rating education quality as excellent or good
(2024-25 Mahtomedi Public Schools Family Survey)

Academic Excellence

In Mahtomedi, we like to visualize a full picture of performance and excellence, looking at multiple data points rather than one ranking or one assessment. We regularly examine three types of meaningful data to understand our district's academic performance.

SATELLITE-LEVEL DATA
Once-a-year data that gives a snapshot of our system performance and the degree to which our curriculum aligns with standards (e.g. graduation rates, MCA, ACT)

MAP-LEVEL DATA
Data gathered a few times a year to help identify skill gaps (e.g. MAP, Fastbridge, portfolios)

STREET-LEVEL DATA
Frequent, ongoing, real-time data to inform instruction and interventions (e.g. classroom data, surveys, assignments)

Scan the QR code for a more in-depth look at Teaching & Learning in Mahtomedi Public Schools

Additional Academic Highlights

3 National Merit Scholars Finalists and 6 Commended Scholars

46 MHS students earned **286** college credits through **916** Career and Technical program

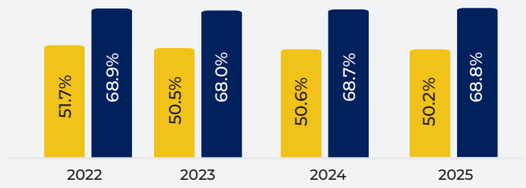
5 students graduated with an unweighted cumulative GPA of 4.0; Almost 30% of the class of 2025 had a GPA of 3.7 or higher

2024-25 Academic Data

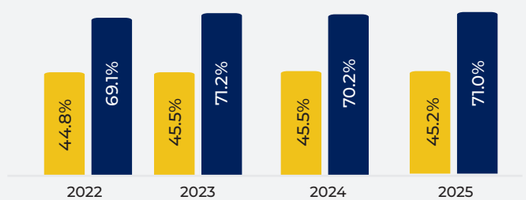
MCA Scores: Consistently Strong Performance

Mahtomedi consistently outperfoms state averages in reading, math, and science at all grade levels. MCAs help us understand how well we align daily lessons to state standards, and how well resources are supporting instruction in reading, math, and science.

District Reading MCA Data (Gr. 3-8 & 10)



District Math MCA Data (Gr. 3-8 & 11)



Unified Approach to Student Growth: Fastbridge Assessments Now Districtwide

Guided by the Minnesota READ Act and a commitment to helping every student meet grade-level expectations, Mahtomedi Public Schools has adopted the Fastbridge suite of assessments districtwide. This national research-based tool provides a common set of reading and math assessments from elementary through high school, helping educators and families track student learning.

At the middle school, Fastbridge aReading and aMath assessments replace previous tests, supporting a smooth transition from elementary school while minimizing time away from instruction. At the high school, universal reading screeners for grades 9 and 10 provide insight into student reading abilities. This unified system strengthens alignment across grade levels and programs, including general education, intervention, and special education, giving educators a clearer picture of student growth and offering families confidence in year-to-year conversations about learning and goals.

Future Ready Experiences

As students plan their path to graduation and beyond, we encourage them to explore courses and opportunities that shape their future. At Mahtomedi High School, Advanced Placement (AP) and College in the Schools (CIS) offer rigorous academics, potential college credit, and valuable skills. Below is the 2024-25 AP and CIS data for MHS.

College Level Offerings

18 Advanced Placement (AP) courses

8 College in the Schools (CIS) courses in partnership with the University of Minnesota and Minnesota State University Mankato

Advanced Placement

85%
scored 3 or higher
(generally resulting in college credit)

697
AP exams taken by
443
students

AP HONOR ROLL GOLD
Awarded to only 7% of schools

129 AP Scholars:
- **59** Scholars
- **29** Scholars with Honor
- **40** Scholars with Distinction

AP Scholar
Scores of 3 or higher on three or more AP Exams

AP Scholar with Honor
Average score of at least 3.25 on all AP Exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on four or more of these exams

AP Scholar with Distinction
Average score of at least 3.5 on all AP Exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on five or more of these exams

Class of 2025 recognition:

74%
took an AP exam

64%
scored three or higher on AP exam

13%
took five AP exams during high school, with at least one taken in 9th or 10th grade

Concurrent Enrollment

195 students taking CIS classes through University of Minnesota

991 college credits earned, resulting in **$600,000 in tuition saving**

Spotlight on College in the Schools

Through partnerships with the University of Minnesota, MHS students can take College in the Schools (CIS) courses. These college-credit courses are taught by high school teachers approved by the University. These no-cost courses are offered during the regular school day, allowing students to earn both high school and college credit.

One example is MHS CIS Spanish IV, which matches the University of Minnesota's Spanish 1003 and offers true university-level rigor. Students earn U of M credit and an official transcript, and more than 60 students completed the course in 2025. Mr. Rob Garry, CIS Spanish teacher, recently received this note from a Class of 2025 family:



"Based on the information we had received, we were fully expecting he would receive 5 semester credits to transfer in, so you can imagine our pleasant surprise when his transcript reflects 8(!) total credits (4 for each semester) that transferred from U of M Twin Cities for his Spanish IV CIS during his 2024-2025 academic year at MHS. Thank you so much for offering these college-level courses at MHS. It really does help to better prepare students for the academic rigors of post-secondary education, as well as providing a cost-saving way to earn college credits while being able to stay on the MHS campus with their friends."

Beyond the Classroom

Academic Excellence

1 Minnesota Scholar of Distinction in Environmental Stewardship

4 students selected to compete in the Minnesota Brain Bee Neuroscience Competition, scoring among the top 30 students in the state on the neuroscience exam

4 MMS students competed at the Math Counts State Tournament placed second as a team

16 students conducted postsecondary bio research that can inform treatments for poisoning, oxygen deprivation, blood disorders, and global nutritional deficiencies

5 students earned Minnesota multilingual seals

54 Class of 2025 students received a certificate of recognition for passing the Spanish Language Proficiency exam

OHA math teams earned **first, second, and third places** at the annual math masters competition

45 National and State Community Service award winners from NHS contributed close to 3,000 hours of community service

22 students from DECA competed at the state competition, with two students advancing to nationals

Fine Arts Excellence

1 All-State Honor band trombone musician and **2** All-State choir students

The cast of Bright Star won awards in **11 different categories** from the Hennepin Arts Spotlight Association

Class of 2025 writers and artists earned the Award of Excellence in graphite drawing, Gouache painting, creative nonfiction, and spoken word and **47** students had their art and writing pieces showcased at the White Bear Center for the Arts Vision and Verse exhibition

Athletics Excellence

14 teams qualified for State Team competitions

Over 20 students from the class of 2025 are continuing their education as collegiate athletes at the NCAA Division I & II levels

State Champions in Girls Soccer, Baseball, and Girls Flag Football

Over 150 student-athletes from the Class of 2025 contributed to **26 conference championships, 22 section championships, and 3 State Championships**

Career, Internship, and Volunteer Fair

In the spring of 2025, Mahtomedi Public Schools and Community Education hosted our first-ever Career, Internship, and Volunteer Fair for Mahtomedi High School (MHS) students.

Over 30 businesses and organizations showcased opportunities, and more than 25 volunteers offered resume reviews and the chance to practice networking skills for the over 400 students in attendance. We spoke with several students about why events like this are so important. They emphasized that high school is a pivotal time for thinking about future careers, especially for students who are still uncertain about their path. The Fair provided a meaningful opportunity to explore opportunities and receive direct mentorship from local professionals with years of wisdom to share. Beyond career guidance, students left the event with encouragement and the reminder that their community is eager to support and connect with them.

In the fall of 2025, Mahtomedi Community Education received the Outstanding Community Education Project Award for the 2025 Career, Internship, and Volunteer Fair. Career exploration, particularly for high school students, was among the most common themes in Mahtomedi Community Education's 2024 survey on aligning programs with the District's Strategic Plan. The Fair reflected the true mission of community partnership, bringing together schools, families, and local businesses in support of student success.

Scan to hear more about the event from students









Spotlights on 2024-25 Strategic Plan Accomplishments

The 2024-25 school year marks the second year of implementation of the district's updated strategic plan, approved by the School Board in June 2023. The full strategic plan is available at www.mahtomedi.k12.mn.us/strategic-plan.

Check out these noteworthy examples of our strategic plan in action, regularly celebrated throughout the year at Zephyr Learning Showcases.

Agency

We will build learner agency through exceptional learning experiences.

- Implemented a rigorous K–5 literacy curriculum aligned to the Science of Reading, strengthening foundational skills, discussion, and writing.
- Expanded learner agency at the middle school through literacy instruction emphasizing academic vocabulary, and annotation using AVID strategies.
- Expanded college and career readiness by offering the AVID Elective course at Mahtomedi High School, supporting students in developing organizational, academic, and postsecondary skills.
- Leveraged a Computer Science grant to build a coherent K–5 learning sequence and expanded robust computer science experiences in grades 6–12.
- Empowered students through personal finance and business coursework connected to industry mentors and real client experiences.
- Developed leadership and entrepreneurship skills through DECA, school-based enterprises, and applied marketing projects.





Inclusive & Equitable Educational System

We will create an inclusive and equitable educational system that values diversity and honors individuality.

- Expanded access and participation for special education students in 916 career programming, job placements, and volunteer opportunities, strengthening transition planning and postsecondary readiness.
- Implemented CharacterStrong at Tier 1 for all students and Tier 2 supports for students needing intervention at Mahtomedi Middle School.
- Strengthened scholarship awareness through Community Education materials in partnership with counseling and social work.
- Expanded Advanced Academics programming across grade levels, increasing enrichment, competitions, and family engagement.
- Increased student participation in career training, certifications, and hands-on workforce experiences through regional partnerships.
- Improved access to inclusive learning through upgraded, all-abilities playgrounds.

Well-Being

We will support the social and emotional well-being of students and staff with an emphasis on mental wellness.

- Established sensory spaces in every school building through a MAEF grant to support student regulation, inclusion, and well-being.
- Expanded social, emotional, and behavioral supports at the high school by implementing a diversion program that provides skill-based, referral-driven services for students at no cost to families.
- Strengthened family partnerships in early childhood by hosting a parent learning day on Conscious Discipline, building shared understanding of how social-emotional practices support students across learning environments.
- Launched the Wildwood Elementary Running Club to promote physical wellness, community connection, and positive student engagement.
- Improved student safety and accessibility by advancing Safe Routes to School infrastructure, including new sidewalks and pedestrian safety beacons.
- Promoted student social-emotional growth and community impact through service learning initiatives, including the Zephyr Service Project, which provided direct support over 100 students.

Mission

The mission of the Mahtomedi School District, the diverse Zephyr community setting the standard for academic and personal excellence, is to ensure each student is equipped with a world-class education to lead and thrive in a dynamic world, pursue their passions, and impact their community through learning environments distinguished by:

- A foundation of rigorous academics and real-world skills
- A community where each person is valued, respected, seen, and heard
- Innovative instructional practices and exceptional learning opportunities
- A commitment to personal growth and celebrating the success that comes in many forms
- Curiosity, engagement, and joy

Trust & Partnership

We will foster trust and partnership amongst all staff, students, families, and community members.

- Expanded access to postsecondary learning options by hosting informational sessions on PSEO and online coursework for Mahtomedi High School students and families.
- Improved the middle school transition experience by strengthening communication with fifth-grade families about registration and next-step planning.
- Built community connection and participation by creating inclusive events such as a community puzzle competition, garage sale, and continued Food Truck Fridays.
- Strengthened community trust and understanding through transparent, timely communication and ongoing engagement related to the district budget, referendum, and long-term planning.
- Connected students to real-world career pathways by engaging professionals and alumni through the Mahtomedi Middle School Career Day and the High School Career, Internship, and Volunteer Fair.
- Established a Superintendent's Student Cabinet as a stakeholder student group to provide feedback and ideas about areas of growth and improvement across the district.

Excellence

We will define, cultivate, and celebrate excellence in the many ways it is embodied in our diverse Zephyr community.

- Delivered a highly aligned K–5 literacy system using Wit & Wisdom, one of only a small number of Minnesota programs designated as "highly aligned" to the Science of Reading, supported by more than 12,000 new instructional resources.
- Achieved state, national, and international recognition through student success in engineering and design, including participation in NASA HUNCH.
- Earned top honors in academics and leadership, including National Merit recognition and state-level awards for student achievement.
- Sustained competitive excellence in athletics, including state tournament appearances and championship-level performances across multiple programs.
- Maintained high-quality programming and manageable class sizes through long-term financial planning and community investment.

Portrait of a GRADUATE

MAHTOMEDI PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The Portrait of a Graduate is a core component of Mahtomedi Public Schools' Strategic Plan and an important driver of how we advance excellence across our system. It defines the skills, mindsets, and competencies students need to thrive both now and in the future and provides a shared vision for teaching, learning, and student growth.



Development of the Portrait began in March 2024 with broad community engagement, including conversations with career professionals from higher education, the military, and a wide range of industries. Their insights, combined with continued feedback from educators, administrators, students, and local business leaders, helped ensure the Portrait reflects the values, expectations, and aspirations of the Mahtomedi community.

During the 2024-25 school year, district leaders introduced the Portrait themes to the high school staff group as a first step in the Portrait rollout. In 2025-26, the rollout work has expanded to include high school students and secondary teacher groups, with a focus on how the Portrait comes to life in classrooms, activities, and learning experiences. These conversations have helped identify both strengths and areas for growth as we move from vision to implementation.

As a guiding framework within our Strategic Plan, the Portrait of a Graduate supports reflection, goal-setting, and continuous improvement, ensuring our students are well prepared to contribute, adapt, and succeed in an ever-changing world.

Ethical

Demonstrates integrity, trust, and accountability in actions



Max Newcome (Class of 2025) exemplified integrity, trust, and accountability through his service as the Mahtomedi School Board Student Representative during the 2024-25 school year. He attended every regular board meeting, delivered student reports, and contributed thoughtfully to discussions, ensuring student perspectives were represented with care and responsibility. Motivated by a desire to understand how decisions are made, Max demonstrated a strong commitment to transparency and shared accountability in district leadership.

Through this role, he gained insight into school finance and governance while strengthening confident, respectful public speaking skills. He shared that learning to speak with purpose and passion helped him grow as a leader and feel more connected to the school community.

Beyond the Board, Max demonstrated academic excellence as a National Merit Finalist and showed responsibility through leadership in Student Leadership Council, Real World Design, Robotics, Karate, and the Superintendent's Student Cabinet.

Communicator

Expresses ideas clearly and concisely for various purposes and audiences



Through strategic presentations and real-world business scenarios, Mahtomedi Class of 2025 students Aida Thiam and Audrey Carlson showcased strong communication skills that advanced them to the international level of competition. At the Minnesota State DECA Competition, they competed in the Travel and Tourism Team Decision Making event, where clear, concise communication was essential.

Their performance required adapting messages for different purposes and audiences. On a rigorous written exam, they demonstrated a precise understanding of industry concepts. During role-play events, the pair analyzed unfamiliar case studies, developed strategic recommendations, and presented their ideas clearly and professionally to judges acting as business leaders, often under tight time constraints.

Through DECA, Aida and Audrey strengthened their ability to communicate complex ideas efficiently, collaborate effectively, and tailor their message to real-world audiences, reflecting strong preparation for future academic and professional success.

Global Citizen

Possesses the ability to navigate diverse cultural, economic, environmental, and political landscapes effectively



Ruby Stembridge, a Mahtomedi High School Class of 2026 student, exemplifies global citizenship through her ability to engage with and value diverse cultures. During a recent school-sponsored trip to Italy and Greece, Ruby deepened her understanding of history, religion, traditions, and daily life, while building meaningful connections with peers in new environments. Her study of Spanish has further shaped this global mindset, strengthening communication skills and expanding cultural awareness beyond her immediate surroundings. Learning another language has helped Ruby approach unfamiliar cultures with curiosity, respect, and confidence. Together, these experiences reflect her growing ability to navigate a connected world, appreciate cultural differences, and participate thoughtfully in a global community.

Scan to listen to Ruby's words of impact

In December 2025, Ruby shared the impact of Mahtomedi's CIS Spanish courses and instructor Ms. Ann Garry at a School Board meeting. Together, these experiences reflect her growing ability to navigate a connected world, appreciate cultural differences, and participate thoughtfully in a global community.

Self-Aware and Self-Directed

Possesses the ability and confidence to take an active, purposeful role in their learning



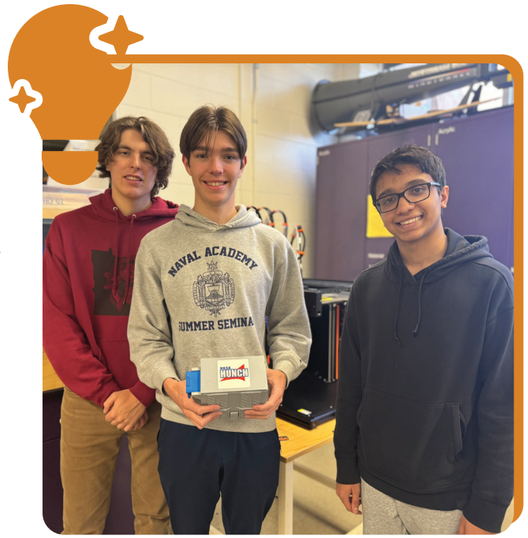
From an early age, Evan McGuire (Class of 2025) demonstrated the confidence and discipline to take ownership of his learning and growth. Beginning varsity wrestling in seventh grade brought early setbacks, which Evan chose to view as motivation rather than limitation. He set clear goals, committed to daily improvement, and developed the mindset required for success.

Evan's training reflects intentionality and perseverance. His days often begin before 6 a.m., balancing strength training, technique, recovery, and mental wellness. Injuries and losses tested his resolve, but each challenge sharpened his focus. A second-place State finish in 2024 became motivation to improve, culminating in a 2025 State Championship.

As a Mahtomedi record-holder, 2025 State Champion, double All-American, and Pan American Gold medalist, Evan is now a Division I wrestler at the University of Minnesota where he continues his journey driven by vision, purpose, and persistence.

Innovative Thinker

Applies both creative and critical thinking to design and evaluate possibilities



Mahtomedi High School students demonstrated innovative thinking through their participation in the NASA HUNCH program during the 2024–25 school year. Class of 2026 students Bjorn Anderson, Arjun Chandra, and William MacChesney designed and fabricated a Cosmic Dust Collector in the school's fabrication lab as part of NASA High Schools United with NASA to Create Hardware (HUNCH). The project required creative problem-solving, technical precision, and iterative design.

Scan to see the project in action

The team advanced to the National Showcase at the Johnson Space Center, where they presented their work to NASA engineers and staff. "It's been an incredible experience working on this project and sharing our work with NASA," said William MacChesney. The experience highlights how hands-on learning empowers students to apply innovative thinking to real-world challenges.

Collaborator

Strategically uses talents, and brings out the strengths in others to work together for positive outcomes



During the 2024–25 school year, the Mahtomedi Girls of Active Leadership (GOAL) club demonstrated how collaboration strengthens individual leadership and drives meaningful service. As a female-led group at Mahtomedi High School, GOAL members leveraged their talents in organization, mentorship, creativity, and communication to design projects that empowered others and created community impact.

In its second year, the club expanded its influence through initiatives such as Mahtomedi on the Run, a monthly program pairing high school leaders with Wildwood Elementary students to promote physical activity, confidence, and connection. GOAL members also partnered with the elementary PTO to launch the school's first Color Run fundraiser, blending teamwork and community engagement.

Building on prior service projects supporting veterans and domestic violence victims, GOAL continued to foster a culture of kindness and empowerment. By working alongside peers and community partners, GOAL transformed individual strengths into collective action, fostering a culture of collaboration and service.

Strategic Plan in Action:

2024-25 Zephyr Learning Showcase

Actions and activities that highlight the advancement of themes in our District and Building-Level Strategic Plans are showcased several times a year in a resource fair format called the Zephyr Learning Showcase. School Board members, administrators, families, and community members attend the showcases to see what students are learning every day and how they are applying their learning to real-world projects. Last year's showcase featured our elementary reading curriculum, new courses, as well as clubs that support business, running, theatre, and cooking, all a testament to the different ways our strategic plan is being advanced. Thank you to our staff and students for sharing their projects with our community!



DECA



OHA Science Course



Wildwood UFLI & Wit & Wisdom



MHS AVID Course



Zephyr Show Stoppers Club



OHA Wit & Wisdom

See more photos of our Zephyr Learning Showcases on our website

Operational Excellence and Community Impact

OPERATIONS

During the 2024–25 school year, the district planned and prepared for a transition from ParentVUE/StudentVUE to Infinite Campus. This work focused on improving system efficiency, usability, and long-term sustainability. Launched in 2025–26, Infinite Campus provides a more modern experience for staff and families while reducing reliance on multiple third-party systems, generating meaningful cost savings and strengthening operational excellence.

Finance

- Mahtomedi earned the highest independent financial audit rating ("unmodified opinion") for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024.
- Since 2018, the district has annually received the Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Association of School Board Officials (ASBO) for meeting the highest standards for financial reporting and transparency.
- The School Board has acted to reduce long-term taxpayer costs by refinancing bonds at lower interest rates when possible.

COMMUNITY IMPACT

Community Engagement

In 2024-25, we continued to engage our community in the work of Mahtomedi Public Schools:

- Community Referendum Learning Sessions about our two-question referendum and budget impacts.
- Coffee and Conversations with School Board members and administration
- Zephyr Learning Showcases, highlighting the implementation of our strategic plan

ADVANCING EXCELLENCE. BUILDING THE FUTURE.

MAHTOMEDI PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Mahtomedi Voters Approve Both Referendum Questions

On November 4, Mahtomedi Public Schools voters approved both referendum questions — one for operating revenue and one for facility improvements. We are deeply grateful to our community for investing in the future of Mahtomedi students.

Throughout this process, we committed to clear communication, factual information, and meaningful engagement, values that define who we are. Thank you to everyone who voted, asked questions, and connected with neighbors and friends about the referendum.

This support allows us to maintain manageable class sizes, offer enriching academic programs, and protect long-term financial stability. As we move into the design and planning phases for facility improvements, we will continue to share updates and opportunities for engagement.

Thank you for your trust, partnership, and shared belief in what's possible when we put students first. Together, we will continue to advance excellence and build the future.

Community Education

Providing a critical link for the district community, Mahtomedi Community Education offers lifelong learning experiences for all ages. In 2024-25, we:



Provided preschool teachers with over 40 hours of LETRS professional development

Offered new community events, including a Community Garage Sale, Puzzle Competition, Community Theatre, and Fishing in Your Neighborhood

Managed over 10,000 hours of facility rentals for over 30 community groups

Zephyr Service Project

In 2024, we helped over 100 Mahtomedi students with gift assistance with donations that included over 300 books, over 270 toys, over $6,000 collected to purchase clothes, pajamas, blankets, and non-toy needs, over $1,200 in gift cards for teenage children, and over 50 rolls of gift wrap!

- **350+** BOOKS
- **$6,000+** BASIC NEEDS
- **270+** TOYS
- **$1,200+** GIFT CARDS

Community Support

Mahtomedi Public Schools is grateful for the ongoing support of our community to ensure our students, staff, and schools have the resources they need to focus on their learning and excel.



Mahtomedi Area Educational Foundation

The Mahtomedi Area Educational Foundation (MAEF) empowers innovation and fosters engagement in Mahtomedi Public Schools. In 2024-25, MAEF provided over $256,000 to support students and staff through:

- **$6,500** STUDENT ENRICHMENT
- **$79,742** CLASSROOM GRANTS
- **$91,000** DISTRICT INITIATIVES
- **$22,500** BASIC NEEDS
- **$54,500** POST-SECONDARY SCHOLARSHIPS

Learn more: www.maefgives.org

Staff Excellence

Where AVID Skills and Student Connection Meet

Amy Yeager is a social studies teacher at Mahtomedi High School (MHS) and has been an educator for 18 years. She has been at MHS for three years, teaching classes such as U.S. History, Introduction to Psychology, and Human Geography. Even in a short amount of time, she has made a strong impact on the school community and, more importantly, on her students.

One of the ways Ms. Yeager has impacted students in the classroom is through her use of AVID skills. AVID, which stands for Advancement Via Individual Determination, focuses on strong reading and writing skills, organization, collaboration, and study strategies for success. Having implemented AVID in her previous districts, Ms. Yeager has helped both MHS students and teachers strengthen their use of these strategies, including leading professional development for staff. Ms. Yeager clearly loves the subjects she teaches, and it shows when she is in front of the class. She does not rely on "sit and get" lecture-style teaching. Instead, she finds ways to help students collaborate, ethically review sources, and reflect on how the material connects to their own lives. She shared that the joy she finds in teaching is "seeing students thrive with different methods and watching them reflect and make connections."

I had Ms. Yeager for both U.S. History and Psychology, and I really valued the way she switched things up in class. We worked in groups, individually, and as a whole class. We watched films, read articles, and even did our own experiments. I appreciate that she is not afraid to try something new. It helped me realize that I take in information differently depending on the activity, which has been helpful for me as a learner.

Through all of her teaching tools and strategies, Ms. Yeager never loses sight of building relationships with her students. She makes it a priority to create a classroom where everyone feels safe and welcome, which I believe is incredibly important.



Community is also very important to Ms. Yeager. She shared, "Mahtomedi is a community that shows up for each other," and she truly lives that value. You will often see her attending student activities and performances. She knows her students both inside and outside the classroom, and that connection helps her better understand and support them. I would recommend her to any student because her impact is something I will carry with me throughout the rest of my education.

Written by Ila Erenz, Mahtomedi High School Class of 2026 student and Mahtomedi Public Schools Communications Intern

MAHTOMEDI TEACHERS

18	13	81.5%
Average years as an educator	Average years in our district	Educators with Master's Degree

Alumni Excellence

Alumni Hall of Fame

Congratulations to the 2025 Mahtomedi Athletic Hall of Fame recipients. This year's honorees include two distinguished alumni athletes and the 1982 Girls Gymnastics Team, recognized for record-setting achievements, state championships, collegiate and professional success, and lasting contributions to Mahtomedi athletics.

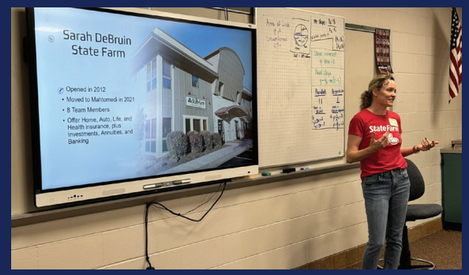


Honors: Justin Gominsky (Class of 2008), Brent Borgen (Class of 2003), and the 1982 Gymnastics team: Coach Maxine (Carlson) Schneider, Bridget (Conway) Johnson, Shelley Mitchell, Laura (Jervis) Jonsrud, Coach Debbie Driscoll, Amy (Paulson) Lorentz, Mary (Mitchell) Cromer, Heidi (Wahlstrom) Brown, Annetta (Tessier) Albrecht, Laura Davis, and Cindy DeLaHunt.

Scan to see more photos and information about the honorees

Alumni Impact:
Middle School Career Day





Mahtomedi Middle School's annual Career Day highlighted the lasting impact of alumni and community engagement on student learning. Alumni, family members, and local professionals returned to share their career journeys through classroom presentations that brought real-world experiences to life.

Students participated in three 25-minute sessions, exploring a wide range of career paths, from engineering, healthcare, and public safety to entrepreneurship, the arts, and emerging fields like cybersecurity. These conversations sparked curiosity, encouraged questions, and helped students connect their interests to future possibilities.

We are especially grateful to our alumni volunteers who gave back by sharing their time and expertise: Andrea Hammel Wollak (1998), Sarah DeBruin (1998), Ashley Melanson (2005), Jessi Pierce (2006), Chenue Her (2009), and Maddie McMahon (2022).

Thank you to our volunteers, the Mahtomedi Middle School counseling office, and staff for making this meaningful learning experience possible.

MAHTOMEDI
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

1520 Mahtomedi Avenue,
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Preparing confident learners to thrive today and in their future



Upcoming Events

Zephyr Learning Showcase
March 23 & May 11, 2026, 6:15-6:45 p.m.
Mahtomedi District Education Center

Community Lunch
May 5, 12-1 p.m.
Mahtomedi District Education Center
Register at mahtomedi.ce.eleyo.com

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Globally Positioned for Success

Our Portrait of a Graduate defines the skills, competencies, and mindsets students need to thrive in a complex world. It empowers them to recognize their strengths, set goals for growth, and engage meaningfully in their communities. More than a measure—it's a vision for every student's future.



Read more inside on page 10!