MAHNOMEN SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Safe,Supportive, Learning

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT #432

Elementary: 218-935-2581 ~ High School: 218-935-2212 ~ District: 218-935-2211

WELCOME TO OUR

Quarterly Newsletter

ISSUE #3

SPRING 2026

QUARTER 3

Celebrating Progress — Preparing for the Final Quarter!

As we wrap up Quarter 3, we want to take a moment to celebrate the growth, achievements, and hard work of our students and staff. This time of year offers a great opportunity to reflect on progress made and set clear goals for the final stretch. With one quarter to go, we are excited to refocus our energy, stay motivated, and finish the school year strong together.

Dates to Note:
April 2: Blood Drive
April 3-6: No School Spring Break
April 9: High School Registration for the 26-27 School Year
April 20: School Board Meeting
April 29: Annual School Powwow

The Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments (MCA) can feel like a big deal for students, but the best preparation focuses on confidence, routine, and readiness. Here are 5 things you can help your child prepare for the MCAs.

1. Make sure they get a good night's sleep
2. Provide a healthy breakfast
3. Be positive and encouraging
4. Make sure they arrive at school on time.
5. Encourage them to take their time.

What test will my child be taking?

Math: Grades 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 11
Reading: Grades 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 10
Science: Grades 5, 8, and 10

Inside this quarter's issue:

- A message from Supt. Simon
- High School Update
- Elementary Update
- Attendance Info
- Health Office News
- American Indian Education Program
- Athletics & Activities
- Important Dates
- Upcoming Events
- Flyers & More!

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@MahnomenPublicSchools



MAHNOMEN DISTRICT

Dr. Simon - Superintendent

District Updates:

Student Life & School Culture

It has been a busy winter at Mahnomen Public Schools, and it's been great to see the energy from our students and staff. A highlight this quarter was SnoDaze Week, which brought a lot of fun and school spirit into the building. From dress-up days to activities and the SnoDaze dance, students and staff had a great time celebrating together.

Students have also been active in winter athletics, concerts, and activities like Knowledge Bowl and Quiz Bowl, representing Mahnomen well across the region. These opportunities help build connection and pride in our school.

Teaching, Learning & Student Support

Inside the classroom, teachers continue working together through Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) to strengthen instruction and support student success. Staff are also focused on building consistent expectations and routines across classrooms, while continuing efforts to support student engagement, attendance, and positive behavior.

Important Dates for the District:

March 23rd - School Board Meeting
April 2nd - Blood Drive
April 3rd - 6th - No School - Spring Break
April 20th - School Board Meeting
April 29th - 10th Annual School Powwow
May 18th - School Board Meeting
May 22 - Last Day of School / End of Quarter 4
May 22 - Graduation

Staffing & Recruitment

Like many districts, we continue working to recruit and retain strong staff. Current hiring efforts include an Elementary Head Principal, Special Education staff, paraprofessionals, substitutes, and Career & Technical Education teachers.

We are also participating in the Teacher Apprenticeship Program, which will allow selected paraprofessionals to pursue a teaching license while continuing to work in our district.

Planning Ahead

District leadership and the school board have begun planning for the 2026-2027 school calendar, discussing expanded summer programming opportunities and continuing conversations about ways to strengthen student support and academic programming.

Thank You, Mahnomen Community

Thank you to our staff, students, families, and community for the continued support of Mahnomen Public Schools. The teamwork and care shown every day make a real difference for our students.

Gratefully,
Dr. Andrea Simon
Superintendent
Mahnomen Public Schools



HIGH SCHOOL

Kevin Headstrom - Principal

Hello,

I want to thank everyone for their continued support of our students, staff, and school community as we move through the third quarter and enter the fourth. The year is going by quickly, and I would like to highlight some events that are coming up this spring.

March Madness it is! As we have ended our successful winter sports seasons, we are welcoming in our new activities. They include track, golf, baseball, and softball. Also, we held both choir and band concerts. These took place on the evenings of March 16 and 19. Another activity during the last week of the 3rd Quarter was the student council taking a trip to the cities! The highlight of the trip was going to a Minnesota Timberwolves basketball game. The band will also be making their annual trip to the cities later in the month. They will be going to both the science museum and the Chanhassen Dinner Theater. Finally, to end this busy stretch, The Minnesota Honor Society, Mahnomen Chapter, will be having a new member induction ceremony and hosting a blood drive on April 2nd.

Spring is also the time of year everyone starts cleaning and preparing for summer. Its nice to see that snow start to melt and transition the frozen ground into grass and plants. Joining in that transition will be our seniors. They have been preparing for this moment for 13 years. Many of them have made some plans for moving on with school or work, and many are also unsure of how they will be moving on. Regardless of what they choose, the opportunities they have had thus far will provide them with all the basics they need to be successful citizens. Graduation ceremonies this year will be on May 22nd. I invite you all to join us in celebrating our seniors and wishing them well wherever their path leads them.

Finally, work has been started on summer programming. Along with the STEAM program, we are exploring adding in some more summer recreation type activities. This will take place primarily during the month of June. More details will be coming out soon, so keep an eye out.

Thank you all and enjoy the warm weather that is coming soon!
Kevin Hedstrom
High School Principal

Mahnomen Band and Choir students had a fabulous day at Sub-Section 30 Music ensemble contest. On the instrumental side 9 ensembles and both jazz bands performed- With every performance receiving a superior rating! On the vocal side, 5 vocal ensembles performed, with 2 Superior ratings and 3 Excellent ratings.

Mahnomen ensembles received one of the top honors in 4 out of 6 performance sites today! Our Jazz 1 ensemble was named best of day, our clarinet Quartet was named best of day, the Women's Ensemble was named best of day, and our saxophone trio was named best of day honorable mention!



HIGH SCHOOL GUIDANCE OFFICE

Sheila Helgeson - School Counselor

Mahnomen High School hosted a Scholarship Night for seniors and their parents on Wednesday, March 5th in the high school library. Refreshments were served, and the event had a great turnout.

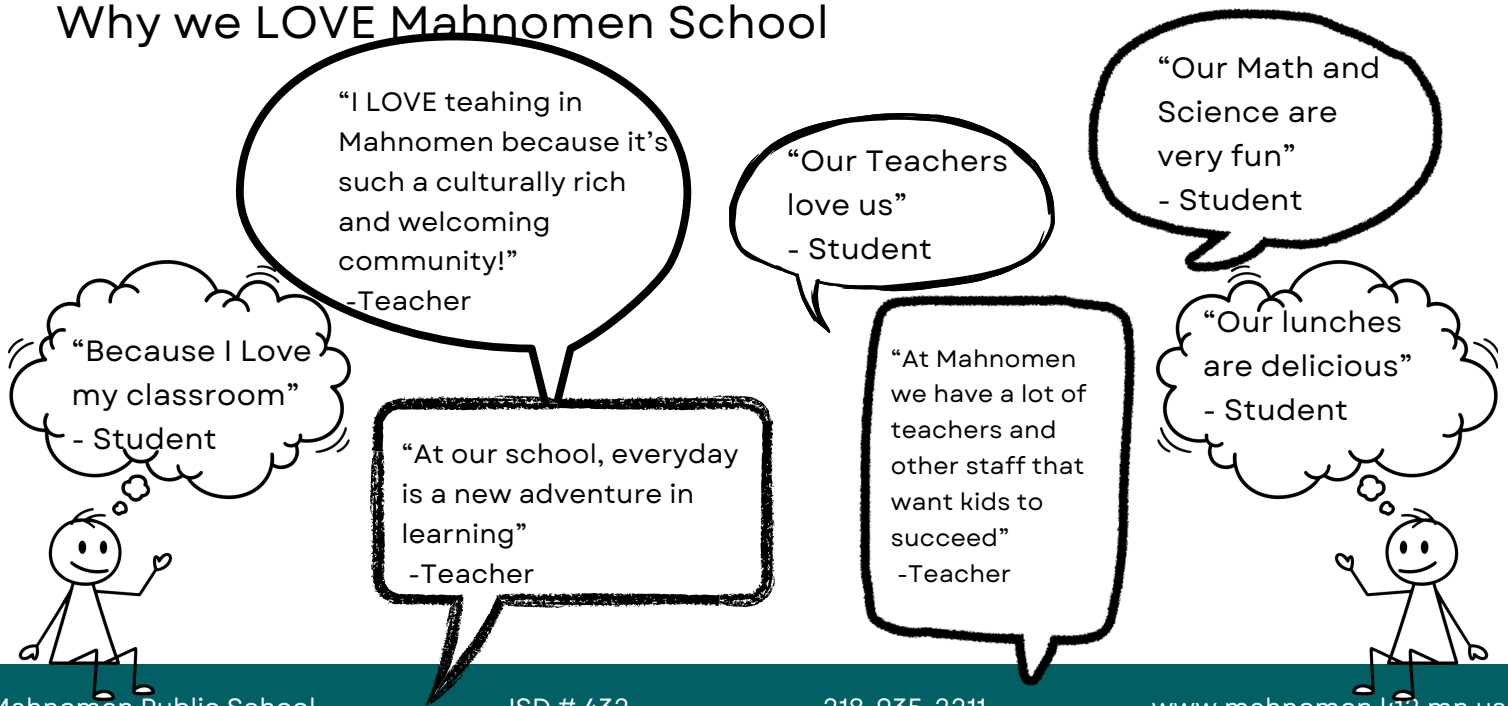
Many scholarship applications were picked up, and students began working on completing them during the event. Representatives from the White Earth Education Department were in attendance and provided valuable assistance to students applying for White Earth scholarships. Other staff members were also available to help students and parents navigate the application process and answer questions. Overall, the evening was a great success, providing students and families with support and resources as they prepare for post-secondary opportunities.

If you would like more information on scholarships that your student may be eligible for please reach out to Sheila for assistance.

Important Dates:

March 20th - End of Quarter 3
March 25th _-Lg. Group Music Contest
March 28th - 30th - Spring Band/Choir Trip
April 2nd - Blood Drive
April 3rd - 6th - No School - Spring Break
April 9th - High School Registration for 26-27 School Year
April 24th - Honors Music Concert
April 29th - 10th Annual School Powwow
May 15th - Spring POPS Music Concert
May 22 - Last Day of School / End of Quarter 4
May 22 - Graduation

Why we LOVE Mahnomen School





ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Mandy Okeson - Interim Elementary Principal

Elementary Updates:

Spring is just around the corner, and our students continue to work hard and grow every day at Mahnomen Elementary. The third quarter has been filled with learning, excitement, and a strong focus on reading!

📚 **I Love to Read Month**

March is I Love to Read Month, and our school has been celebrating in many fun ways. Students have been participating in reading rotations, visiting different classrooms to enjoy stories and activities with various teachers. These rotations help build excitement around books and allow students to connect with reading in new ways.

We have also welcomed several Mystery Readers into classrooms. Students love trying to guess who the special guest reader will be! It has been a wonderful way to share the joy of reading and bring our school community together.

🧁 **Muffins in March**

Families are invited to join us for Muffins in March, a special opportunity to come to school, enjoy a muffin with your child, and spend a few moments reading together. Events like this help reinforce the importance of reading both at school and at home.

✏️ **MCA Testing**

Students in grades 3–6 will begin MCA testing on April 8. We encourage families to help students be prepared by ensuring they get a good night's sleep, eat a healthy breakfast, and arrive at school ready to do their best.

🎶 **Elementary Spring Program**

Please mark your calendars! Our Elementary Spring Program will be held on May 5. We will be following the same format as our Christmas Program. Students have already begun preparing and are excited to share their hard work with families and our community.

❤️ **Thank You**

Thank you for your continued support of Mahnomen Elementary. Together, we are creating a warm, safe, and encouraging environment where every student can learn and grow.

We are proud of our students and grateful for the partnership we share with our families.

Important Dates for Elementary:

March 20th - End of Quarter 3
March 23rd - ECFE
March 30th - ECFE
April 3rd - 6th - No School - Spring Break
April 13th - ECFE
April 20th - ECFE
April 27th - ECFE
April 29th - 10th Annual School Powwow
May 5th - Elementary Music Concert
May 15th - Preschool Graduation
May 22 - Last Day of School / End of Quarter 4



ATTENDANCE OFFICE

Jessica Goodwin
District Attendance/Truancy

The Importance of School Attendance

Regular school attendance is one of the most important factors in a child's academic success. When students attend school consistently, they build strong routines, stay connected to their peers and teachers, and gain the confidence they need to thrive both academically and socially.

Good attendance =

- More learning opportunities
- Stronger friendships and social skills
- Improved social-emotional growth
- Increased confidence
- Fewer behavior concerns

Every school day matters. Even missing just a few days each month can add up to significant loss of instructional time over the course of the year.

What does it mean to be truant?

A student is considered truant when they have at least (3) unexcused absences from school. Truancy laws are in place to ensure that students are receiving their right to an education. When absences are unexcused and begin to accumulate, the school is required to follow certain procedures.
Our attendance system automatically generates notification letters at 3, 5, and 7 unexcused absences. These letters are meant to inform families and encourage early intervention before attendance becomes a larger concern.

Communication is KEY

If your child is absent, we need ***daily*** communication from a parent or guardian explaining the reason for the absence. A simple phone call or message helps us accurately document attendance and support your child appropriately.

We are here to HELP

If your family is experiencing challenges that are affecting attendance–transportation concerns, health issues, housing instability, or anything else–please reach out. Early communication allows us to connect you with supportive services and resources.

As the Attendance Monitor, I, (Jess Goodwin) am more than willing to assist families and help find solutions. My door is always open. My Contact Number: 218.935.2212 ext. 244
You are never alone in navigating attendance challenges.
Please don't hesitate to reach out whenever you need support. Working together, we can ensure every student has the opportunity to succeed.

SCHOOL HEALTH OFFICE

Ellen Bueng, RN - School Health Office Nurse

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome to Quarter 4! The Health Office would like to share a few important reminders to help keep our students healthy and ready to learn.
Illness Guidelines: If your child has a fever of 100.4°F or higher, vomiting, or other signs of illness, please keep them home from school. Students should be fever-free for at least 24 hours without medication before returning to school.
Medication at School: If your child needs medication during the school day, it must be brought to the Health Office by a parent or guardian. All medications must be in the original container and require a completed medication authorization form.

Health Tips



- Wash hands regularly
- Dress warmly for outdoor recess
- Drink plenty of water
- Get enough sleep

Clothing: Please pack extra clothing for your student in their backpack. The Health Office has a limited supply of clothing, so it is helpful if students have an extra pair of socks, pants, or other clothing available if needed.
Contact the Health Office if your child has any medical concerns, allergies, or health updates, please notify the school nurse so we can provide the best care possible. Thank you for helping us keep our school community safe and healthy.
Sincerely,
Health Office / School Nurse

Why should your child attend and Early Childhood Program?

Early Childhood Programs help promote development over five primary domains:

1. Cognitive development
2. Social Skills
3. Emotional Regulation
4. Language & Literacy
5. Physical Growth

Still have questions on Early Childhood Education and what might be best for your child?
Give our office a call
at 218-935-2581





AMERICAN INDIAN EDUCATION

Desiree Linden - AIE Program Director

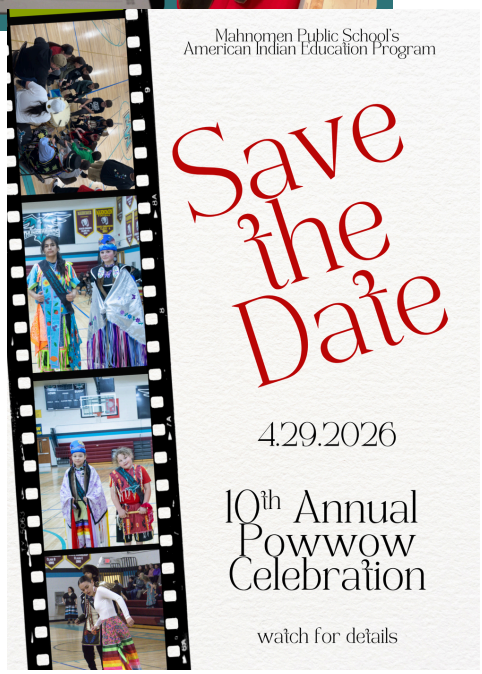
Building Culture, Connection, and Community

✨ What We've Been Up To

Quarter 2 Highlights:

- Ribbon Skirt/Shirt Competition Winners:
  - Elementary: Jorja Leslie
  - High School: Charlie Hanks
  - Staff: Kelly Phillips
- Strongest Tribal Consultation to date
- Marcie Rendon Writers Workshop (12 students)
- Native American Heritage Month Fall Feast
- Detroit Lakes School Powwow participation
- Mashkiki Cohort (23 high school students)
- Heritage Week Celebrations (Every Child Matters, Rock Your Mocs, MMIP Awareness & more)
- Native Pathways to College (All seniors attended)
- AIE Winter Workshop – Families created traditional gifts including beadwork, drums, ribbon skirts/shirts, and more. Dinner and youth activities provided.
- White Earth Natural Resources Visit (PreK–12 hands-on learning)
- Youth Arts Publication Experience at Manoomin Arts
- Ice Fishing & Snowshoeing with White Earth Natural Resources
- Indigenous Youth Council service & leadership activities
- Annual Winter Gathering with community meal & storytelling





🌱 Coming Up Next

- March 17–20 – MIEA Conference
- March 23 & 27 – Sugar Bush Experience
- April 19–21 – IYC College Visit (pending approval)
- April 29 – 10th Annual Powwow Celebration 🎉
- May 20 – American Indian Senior Banquet

❤️ Our Mission

We are committed to creating meaningful, inclusive opportunities where students feel connected, supported, and proud of their culture. Thank you for supporting our students, families, and community!

ATHLETIC & ACTIVITIES OFFICE

Activities Director

Winter Sports overview and Spring Sport Preview

Congratulations to Cade Walz and Blake McMullen, each earning 3rd place in the MSHSL Class A Individual Wrestling Tournament! Also congratulations to Dylan McMullen who advanced to the MSHSL Class A Individual Wrestling Tournament, had some hard matches and is proud to have made it down to State! Go Thunderbirds!!



Section 8A Results:
107 - Keo Keezer - DNP
114 - Avery Bush- 3rd Place
121 - Owen Hoban - 6th Place
127 - Eli Pazdernik - 4th Place
133 - Brandon Miller - DNP
139 - Wakiza Fairbanks- 3rd Place
145 - Henry Geray - 6th Place
152 - Manny Johnson - 3rd Place
160 - Don Turner- DNP
172 - Cade Walz - 2nd Place
189 - Dylan McMullen- 1st Place
215 - Blake McMullen- 1st Place
285 - Kaden Bartnes- 3rd Place

Find the latest Thunderbird Activity Schedule Online here!

Thunderbird Girls ended their season in a hard fought battel to Sacred Heart on Feb. 28th. They ended their season with an overall record of 9-18. Great season, Lady Thunderbirds!





Congratulations to Anthony Thompson who entered the 1000 point club in the Thunderbirds win over Blackduck in Section 8A basketball on March 5th.

COMMUNITY EDUCATION

PRECISION DRIVING CENTER
A DIVISION OF ST. CLOUD STATE UNIVERSITY

55+ DRIVER DISCOUNT PROGRAM

GET UP TO **10% OFF** YOUR **CAR INSURANCE FOR 3 YEARS!**

To register for these or other classes in your area call:
320-308-1400 or 888-234-1294
You can also register online at www.DriverDiscountProgram.com

4-Hour in-person classes offered at this location:

Mahnomen High Rm #207
209 S 1st St-Use door #6 on north side; Mahnomen, MN
May 7 4:00 PM to 8:00 PM

320.308.1400 PrecisionDrivingCenter.com 1805 U.S. Highway 10, St. Cloud, MN 56304
Safety Programs | Skill Training | Custom Courses







Dance classes offered for ages 3 to 12th grade! Contact JFK - Mahnomen Director Ashley Neis for more information!



STUDENT HIGHLIHGTS





CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR JANUARY AND FEBRUARY STUDENT AND STAFF OF THE MONTH EARNERS!

"King Waffles VS King Pancake"

"Max's Imagination"

"Northern Lights"



Celebrating Our 7th Grade Authors, Illustrators, and Publishers

7th Grade Authors!
Our talented 7th grade students recently became authors, illustrators, and publishers by creating their own books: King Waffles vs. King Pancake, Northern Lights, and Max's Imagination.

Copies can be ordered using the codes below:
Waffles: 8491022
Northern Lights: 8491023
Max's: 8491024
portal.studentreasures.com

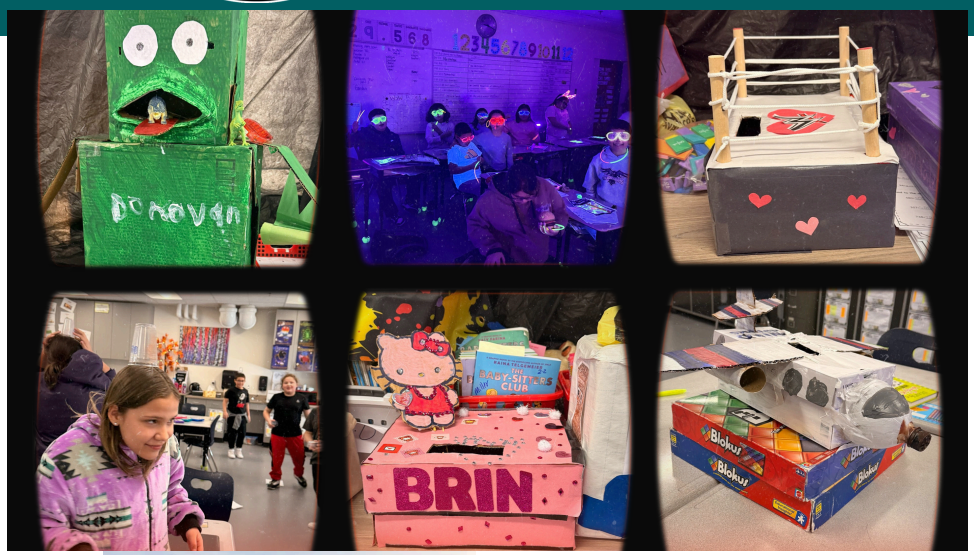
Scan to be directed to the ordering link.





CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR SNO DAZE KING GAGE AND QUEEN BRIDGET

4TH GRADE FUN IN MS. MILLER'S CLASS











We had a busy month! We have been learning community building games, we had a Valentine's Day glow party, and we went ice fishing.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

HOPE for Mahnomen

Mahnomen High School Gymnasium

April 14–15

Tuesday & Wednesday, 6:30 PM

A Reason to hope. A time to heal.


Tom Shanklin, Guest Speaker


Mayor Curt Uran, Host


Katie Baker, Music

For all young people, for all adults, for all elders.

Free Community Gathering

Brought to you by area churches, community leaders, and organizations.
For more info, call (218) 261-0916