

Newsletter

**Mahnomen Public School
ISD #432**



Back to School

We are excited to bring back our Quarterly newsletter again this year! In each newsletter you will find information for you and your students, see what we are up to and get to know our school and our story better.

Want to promote a community flyer, event, or initiative? We'd love to include it! Email our Communications Director, Kayla Nelson, at kayla.nelson@mahnomen.k12.mn.us - your input helps make this newsletter truly community-driven by those who mean the most to our students and staff!

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COMMUNICATION CHANNELS

Follow us!

~ Facebook
[@mahnomenpublicschools](https://www.facebook.com/mahnomenpublicschools)

~ Youtube
[@MahnomenPublicSchoolsStream](https://www.youtube.com/MahnomenPublicSchoolsStream)

~Website
www.mahnomen.k12.mn.us

Newsletter



Welcome Back

— Andrea Simon, Superintendent

We are so excited to welcome all of our staff and students back for the 2026-2027 school year! Many new faces have joined our team and they are ready to meet all the students. We have also had some internal changes in our team and you will find all of that later on in the newsletter. Each one of our staff members plays a very important part in both our school and the education of our students.

This year in our school, we will be using the app called “The Commons” for student cell phone management. Information will be shared with families and students soon. The Commons is an app that is downloaded onto students' phones, and it will put their phones in “airplane mode” during the school day when they enter school property. This will block distractions on their phones. Students will still be able to carry their phones with them but will be unable to use them, other than in an emergency. If you need to get ahold of your child, please call the school office, and they will get the message to your student.

This year also brings lots of planning for our school. We will begin planning for the next 3-5 years during our Strategic Planning meetings. We will start this fall with surveys and listening sessions for our school community. Your voice matters to us, and we would like to hear from as many people as possible during these surveys and listening sessions.

Student Photos

At Mahnomen Public School, we love to tell our story, and our story would not be complete without our staff and students. Throughout the year, we share photos and videos of school activities to celebrate learning and keep our community connected. Students are considered approved to be photographed unless the district has received a written request from a parent or guardian opting them out. If you do not want your student photographed, please submit your request in writing to the High School or Elementary Office.

High School Updates

Welcome back, Everyone.

We at Mahanomen High School are excited to start a new year and welcome you all! I want you to know we have several new staff members this year, and I encourage you to welcome them to our Thunderbird community. They are as follows:

- Jan Moy-Special education
- Sophie Johnson-Special education
- Lauryn Renner-Science
- John Runningen-Social
- Laura Keller-Business
- Jazlyn Erickson-Art
- Katie Andrs-Language Arts
- Jen Eggen-Reading Interventionist
- Brad Riggie-Computers/Technology and Careers
- Patti Johnson-High School Administrative Assistant

New this year will be a change to our lunch schedule. We are moving back to a two-period lunch for 7th-12th grade students. The ninth-twelfth-grade students will have lunch from 11:39-12:06. This is the same time as in previous years. The junior high, grades 7 and 8, will have lunch from 12:27-12:54. The junior high will have their 5th hour class before lunch, and it will be 11:42-12:27. We will go over all of this with students on the first day.

As always, we do our best to provide a quality education to our students in a safe and welcoming environment. If you ever have any questions or concerns, please email, call, or stop in to see me and let me know what they are. I love to hear the good stuff, too!

Enjoy your day, and here's to a great school year!

Kevin Hedstrom
High School Principal

Sept. 1 - First Day of School
Sept. 4 & 7 - No School
Sept. 21 - School Board Meeting
Sept. 21 - 25 - Homecoming Week
Sept. 28 & 29 - Hearing and Vision Screening
Oct. 12 - School Photo Day
Oct 15 & 16 - No School MEA
Oct. 19 - School Board Meeting
Nov. 5 - End of Quarter 1
Nov. 6 - No School Teacher Work Day
Nov. 16 - School Board Meeting



Welcome Back, Thunderbirds! Mandy Okeson – Elementary Principal

Welcome to another exciting year at Mahnomon Elementary! I am honored to begin this school year as your Elementary Principal and look forward to partnering with our students, families and community.

Open House

Wednesday, August 26th

4:00-7:00 pm

Visit your child's classroom,
bring in school supplies and
join us for a light dinner!

Student Lunch Times

4's Alone	12:05-12:30
Kindergarten	10:40-11:05
First Grade	10:47-11:12
Second Grade	10:52-11:17
Third Grade	10:59-11:24
Fourth Grade	11:06-11:31
Fifth Grade	12:35-1:00
Sixth Grade	12:40-1:05

Our staff is looking forward to a year of implementing a new reading curriculum and improving our current instructional and organizational systems by grounding our work in the principles of effective teaching to better meet student needs!

After-School Transportation Changes

To help ensure the safety of all students, any requests to change your child's after-school transportation must be made by calling the elementary office at **218-935-2581** no later than **2:00 p.m.** each school day.

Bus passes will not be issued. Students will only be transported according to their regular, prearranged transportation plan.

TOGETHER
we
LEARN
GROW
SOAR

Power of Positive Communication

Positive communication plays a crucial role in nurturing a supportive and collaborative environment between home and school. Effective communication ensures that your child receives the best possible education. In an age dominated by social media and instant messaging, it's easy to forget the importance of direct communication and personal connections. While social media platforms offer convenience and quick updates, they are not the ideal channels to address concerns or share important information about your child's education. Here are a few reminders on maintaining positive communication between home & school:

Use Official Communication Channels

Follow official Mahnomen Public School social media and web channels for reliable and accurate information!

Address Concerns Directly

Reach out to your child's teacher or school administration directly if you have concerns.

Avoid Social Media During Conflicts

Engaging in online discussions or venting frustrations on social media does not solve conflicts.

Stay Informed and Get Involved

Your active involvement in your child's education is vital for their success!

Attendance Matters

Welcome back! We are excited to start a new school year with our students and families. Regular attendance helps students build friendships, stay engaged, and succeed in the classroom. We know that life happens, so if your child will be absent or your family is facing challenges that may affect attendance, please reach out; I'm here to help.

As your Attendance & Homeless Liaison, I am always here to support you and your family in any way I can. If you have questions, need resources, or are facing challenges that may affect your child's attendance, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Jess Goodwin
Attendance & Homeless Liaison
218-935-2212 ext 244

Thank you for partnering with us to make this a wonderful school year.

HEALTH OFFICE

STAYING INFORMED, STAYING HEALTHY

Welcome back to the 26-27 school year. We are so happy to start the new year.

If your student(s) will need to take any medication during the day at school or have a health condition, please visit with the nurse to make sure all the proper paperwork is filled out and to go over their care plan.

MEDICATIONS

- It is REQUIRED for a medication form to be filled out in order for health office staff to give out medications in the school. These forms can be found online
 - Non-prescription meds: A non-prescription form must be signed and brought in by the parent/guardian with an individual bottle of UNOPENED medications.
 - Prescription meds: A prescription form must be signed and brought in by the parent/guardian AND a licensed provider. Medications must be in a current, non-expired prescription bottle with a label.
 - Self-carry meds (for Asthma and Anaphylaxis): *Please call the Health Office Nurse to discuss this option.

HEALTH CONDITIONS

If your student has a diagnosis of Diabetes, Seizure disorder, Allergic Reactions, Asthma, or any other emergent health condition, please contact the health nurse to get an Emergency Care Plan in place for this upcoming school year.

IMMUNIZATIONS

- It is required by law for students to be up to date on immunizations to be enrolled in the school district. If your child has received any new immunizations, please bring a copy of your student's immunization records to the health office as soon as possible.
 - If your student is not up to date, you can either bring them to your local health clinic or contact the health office nurse to get them caught up.
 - An exemption form can also be filled out for medical and non-medical exemptions. Contact the health office nurse or your student's primary care provider if applicable.
 - Non-Medical: Needs to be signed by a notary
 - Medical: Needs to be signed by a notary AND a medical provider
 - *We have a notary at the Mahomen School

HEARING AND VISION SCREENINGS

- Hearing and Vision screenings will be provided by the school district in conjunction with the Lions Club and White Earth Tribal Health.
- Mahnomen Schools
- Monday, Sept 28th and Tuesday, Sept 29th
- If your child is not in one of these grades and you have concerns about their vision or hearing, please contact the health office nurse to get them added to the list or make an appt at your local clinic to have them assessed.

SPORTS

NEWS



Fall 2026



The fall season is almost in full swing. As we gear up for another amazing year of Thunderbird sports, we want families and athletes to be in the know of all the things going on. By downloading the Bound app you will have access to all things sports.



Practice Times

Fall sports practice will start on Monday, Aug. 17, for 9th-12th graders and Monday, Aug 24th for 7th and 8th graders. Times will be provided by coaches.

Many of our sporting events will be streamed on KRJB or KRJM and Your Live Event on YouTube. If you're not able to make the game, be sure to tune in and cheer them on from wherever you are.

Mahnomen Athletics Director

Jon Starkey

Phone: 218-935-2211 ext 160

Email:

jstartkey@mahnomen.k12.mn.us

Waubun Athletics Director

Dan Kohler

Phone: 218-473-6112

Email:

dank@waubun.k12.mn.us



Sports Physicals

Each student who is going to be in sports will need an updated sports physical on file with the school. Sports physicals are good for three years.



Football - Varsity

8/29/26	Scrimmage	Home - Mahnomen
9/3/26	Walker-Hackensack-Akeley	Away
9/11/26	Coorston	Home - Mahnomen
9/17/26	Red Lake	Away
9/25/26	Nevis	Home - Waubun
10/2/26	Red Lake County	Away
10/9/26	Polk County West	Home - Waubun
10/20/26	Ada Bourp West	Home - Mahnomen



Football - Junior Varsity

9/2/26	Pillager	Away - Park Rapids
9/8/26	Barnesville	Home - Mahnomen
9/11/26	Crookston	Home
9/14/26	East Grand Forks	Home - Mahnomen
9/17/26	Red Lake	Away
9/21/26	Detroit Lakes	Away
9/25/26	Nevis	Home - Waubun
10/2/26	Red Lake County	Away - Oklee
10/5/26	Hawley	Away
10/9/26	Polk County West	Home - Waubun
10/12/26	East Grand Forks	Away
10/13/26	Frazee	Away
10/14/26	Pine River - Backus	Away
10/19/26	Walker Hackensack Akeley	Away
10/20/26	Ada Borup West	Home - Mahnomen

SPORTS

SCHEDULES



Volleyball

8/24/26	Scrimmage	Waubun
8/28/26	Scrimmage - Varsity only	Oklee
9/1/26	Crookston	Home - Waubun
9/8/26	Blackduck	Away
9/10/26	Rosston	Home - Mahnomen
9/14/26	JV Tourney at Fosston	Away
9/15/26	Cass Lake-Bena	Away
9/19/26	Clearbrook Tourney	Away
9/22/26	Clearbrook	Away

Volleyball

9/24/26	Bagley	Home - Mahnomen
9/29/26	Lake Park Audubon	Home - Waubun
10/1/26	Park Chrisitan	Away
10/6/26	Climax Fisher	Away
10/8/26	Ada Bourp West	Home - Waubun
10/10/26	Thunderbird Tourney	Home Waubun
10/12/26	Northern Freeze	Home - Mahnomen
10/13/26	Win-E-Mac	Home - Mahnomen
10/19/26	Fertile	Away
10/22/26	NCE-UH	Home - Waubun



Volleyball - Junior High

9/8/26	Blackduck	Away
9/10/26	NCE-UH	Home - Waubun
9/14/26	Park Christian	Away
9/15/26	Ada	Home - Waubun
9/22/26	Clearbrook - Gonvick	Away
9/24/26	NCE-UH	Away
9/29/26	Fosston	Away
10/5/26	Thunderbird Tourney	Home - Mahnomen
10/8/26	Fertile	Away
10/10/26	Win-E-Mac Tourney	Away
10/12/26	Lake Park Audubon	Home - Mahnomen
10/13/26	Win-E-Mac	Home - Mahnomen

Football - Junior High

9/10/26	Ada Borup West	Home - Mahnomen
9/15/26	Fertile	Away
9/17/26	Polk County West	Away
9/24/26	Lake Park Audubon	Home - Waubun
9/29/26	Hawley	Home - Waubun
10/01/296	Red Lake County	Away - Plummer
10/6/26	Park Rapids	Away
10/8/26	Bagley	Home - Mahnomen

Welcome OUR NEW STAFF AND STAFF TAKING ON NEW ROLES!



Lauryn Renner
High School Science



John Runningen
High School Social



Laura Keller
High School Business



Brad Riggle
High School Technology



Kaitlyn Andrs
High School English



Noah Monson
Elementary Phy - ED &
DAPE



Kelly Bristlin
4th Grade Teacher



Amy Rasmussen
Special Education



Jennifer Eggen
Reading
Interventionist



Crystal Blue
FACS and Health



Jon Starkey
Elementary Dean and
Activities Director



Jazlyn Erickson
High School Art



Madison Fairbanks
Para



Hailie Sherer
Para

Welcome OUR NEW STAFF AND STAFF TAKING ON NEW ROLES!



Jason Eggen
Head of Building and
Grounds



Darell Skoy
Custodial



Hannah McGregor
Custodial



Kayla Dillon
Custodial



Jan Moy
Special Education
Teacher



Courtney Stueness
5th Grade Teacher



Valla Jaster
4's Alone Teacher



Patti Johnson
High School Secretary



Becky Olson
ADSIS



Meredith McArthur
District Assessment
Coordinator



Kim Kochmann
Community Education



Michelle Fjeld
4th Grade Teacher



Sophie Johnson
Special Eduactaion
Teacher



Samantha DeLong
1st Grade/K Teacher



Mahnomen Elementary School 2026-2027 Supply List

Phone: (218)935-2581

Fax: (218)935-5827



Pre-K

1 Box of Kleenex
1 Box of Crackers
Large Backpack
Blanket for Rest time
Mat for Rest Time
Water Bottle

*****Extra set of Clothes:**

(shirt, pants, underwear & socks)

Kindergarten

4 Crayola crayons, box of 24
8 large glue sticks
1 pkg. Highlighters
1 pkg. Pencils
1 Scissor
1 plastic/hard pencil/crayon box
2 Boxes of crackers, granola bars, pretzels, or cereal, etc
1 box Zip-Lock bags (gallon or sandwich size)
Headphones- (over ear only/NO Bluetooth)

Roomy backpack without wheels
2 containers Clorox wipes
1 Box Kleenex
Extra Set of Clothes:
(shirt/pants/underwear/socks)

1st Grade

2 (12 count) packs of Ticonderoga #2 pencils **yellow only--** "decorative" pencils break the sharpener)
1 plastic pencil box
1 box (24 count) Crayola crayons
6 large glue sticks
1 scissors
2 pkg. **Black EXPO** dry-erase markers
2 boxes Kleenex
2 boxes of crackers (graham, Cheez-its, Goldfish, etc.)
2 large boxes of cold cereal (Sweetened, for snack, no milk)
1 backpack **without wheels**
2 containers Clorox Wipes
1 Composition Notebook (Ms. Ryan's Class)
1 Folder (Ms. Ryan's Class)

1 pair **of high-quality headphones. (over ear ONLY/no bluetooth please)- these will follow them ***** Please DO NOT send colored pencils, pencil sharpeners, folders or notebooks to school with your 1st graders**

2nd Grade

1 pencil box
1 box crayons
1 package EXPO markers
1 box of washable markers
2 spiral notebooks
1 ruler
pencils (#2lead)
1 container of Lysol/Clorox wipes
1 pkg glue sticks
3 pocket folders
2 boxes of Kleenex
2 boxes of crackers
Headphones
Backpack & Water bottle

3rd Grade

1 pkg of pencils (#2 type lead)
1 pencil box/bag
1 pkg markers
2 glue sticks
1 Spiral Notebook (wide rule)
1 wide ruled loose-leaf paper pack
3 pocket folders (red, green, blue)
2 boxes of Kleenex
2 boxes of crackers/snack
1 container Clorox Wipes
Backpack
Headphones

4th Grade

Pencil box/bag
3 pkg #2 pencils
1 pkg of 10 markers
1 package of crayons
4 glue sticks
1 scissors
2 wide-ruled notebooks
1 Pack of BLACK EXPO Markers
Highlighters
3 plastic one-subject folders
List continues top right column---
2 Boxes Snack food

1 Box Kleenex
Headphones
Backpack
Water bottle

5th Grade

3 pkg pencils (#2 type lead)
Colored pencils (8-12 count)
Markers- washable
Highlighters
1 Pencil Bag or Box
2 Glue Sticks
1 scissors
1 Package of Expo Markers
2 Single subject notebooks
2 pocket folders
3 boxes of Kleenex
3 boxes of crackers/cereal
A backpack or book bag
Headphones/earbuds(required)
Tennis shoes for phy-ed

6th Grade

3 single-subject notebooks
1 Pocket folder
Headphones/earbuds (required)
Lots of pencils
Pencil box or container
Colored pencils
Markers
Scissors
2 glue sticks
Must have Tennis shoes
2 boxes of Kleenex
3 boxes of crackers (*graham, cheese-it, goldfish, etc.*)
Backpack or school bag of some kind
Clipboard to write on (optional)

*****Special Education*****

***EXTRA* supplies needed**

1 pkg of pencils (#2 type lead)
1 box of Kleenex
***** PLEASE LABEL: "FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION" *****



Boozhoo & Welcome to the 2026–2027 School Year!

The American Indian Education Program is excited to welcome our students and families back for another school year! We hope everyone had a wonderful summer and is ready for a year filled with learning, connection, culture, and new experiences.

Our AIE team is looking forward to another great year of providing opportunities for students to connect with their culture, language, history, and community. Throughout the school year, we will offer cultural enrichment activities, Ojibwe language learning, traditional teachings, hands-on experiences, and opportunities for students to learn from community members and cultural knowledge keepers.



We believe that our students' culture and identity are important parts of their education. Our goal is to create opportunities for students to learn, ask questions, share their experiences, and develop a deeper understanding and appreciation of their Ojibwe culture and traditions.

We are excited for all that this school year will bring and look forward to seeing our students involved in AIE activities throughout the year. We know 2026–2027 is going to be a great year!

Miigwech for allowing us to be part of your students' educational journey. We look forward to learning, growing, and creating memories together!

Miigwech,

American Indian Education Program
Mahnommen Public Schools



SUMMER STEAM CAMP

Our students had so much fun at Summer STEAM Camp! From working together on hands-on science experiments to heading out on field trips, our students spent the summer exploring, creating, problem-solving, and learning together.

We loved seeing their curiosity, teamwork, and excitement throughout camp. Thank you to our staff for making Summer STEAM Camp such a fun and memorable experience for our students! ❤️

