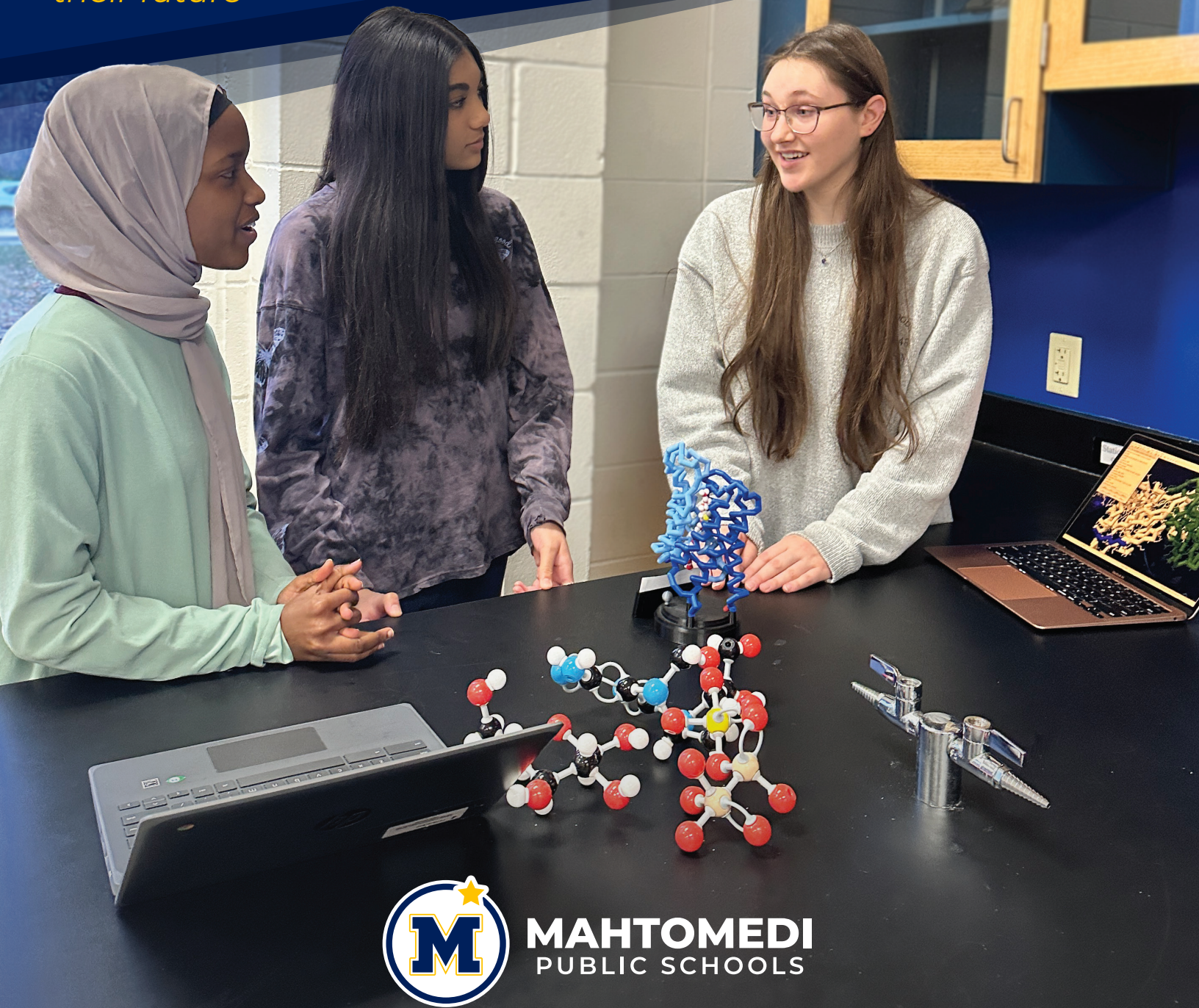


Experience Excellence

*Preparing confident learners
to thrive today and in
their future*



MAHTOMEDI
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

ANNUAL REPORT TO OUR COMMUNITY

2022-2023 SCHOOL YEAR

Leadership Update

On behalf of the Mahtomedi School Board and District, we are excited to share our 2022-23 Annual Report to Our Community with you. This report contains school district information and highlights the academic excellence at Mahtomedi Public Schools.

The 2022-23 school year marked a pivotal time for growth and progress in our school district. Most notable has been the adoption of a new district strategic plan. Building on our recent achievements, our district is ready to set the course for the future. This comprehensive plan was developed by over 100 students, staff, families, and community members and identifies our aspirations as a district, the results that we want to see for students who go through Mahtomedi Public Schools, and the actionable steps we want to see over time. This plan was unanimously approved by the Mahtomedi School Board, and the administration and School Board will work in partnership in its implementation.

We are proud of the recognition we have received on state and national levels for academic excellence (#6 Best Traditional High Schools in Minnesota; Top 10 among all independent school districts statewide in Reading and Math, and a 96% graduation rate). As you'll see in this issue, there are so many ways our students are experiencing excellence in our schools and programs through academic and extracurricular pursuits.

As a district, we celebrate several noteworthy accomplishments in how we delivered education this past year.

- The quick acceleration of new professional development coursework for literacy called **Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling (LETRS)** at Wildwood Elementary School. LETRS helps give teachers a deep understanding of how to develop skilled readers from foundational skills to reading comprehension.
- The planning and implementation of the new **Mahtomedi Middle School schedule** includes new coursework and opportunities for middle school students to explore a variety of academic areas as well as build a solid foundation of skills for academic success now and in the future.
- The collaboration and implementation of **opportunities and course offerings at Mahtomedi High School** allows students to explore business, leadership, and other skills for post-secondary success.

Our commitment to partnering and engaging with our community and stakeholders has been critical in our growth this past year. We have been responsible stewards of taxpayer dollars, providing exceptional learning opportunities and maximizing the support we receive from the community. Our district stands as a strong investment for the community. As highlighted in this edition, our growth and leadership among Minnesota schools are evident through our strategic plan and fiscal responsibility. Our tiered levy has supported the investment in our academic programs, and we are grateful for our community's support.

We will continue to ensure our students have a strong academic foundation, and we are excited for you to read more about how we are preparing confident learners to thrive today and in their future.



Barb Duffrin
Superintendent

Stacey Stout
School Board Chair

Mahtomedi School Board		
Stacey Stout <i>Chair</i>	Paul Donna <i>Treasurer</i>	Ryan Domin <i>Director</i>
Kelly Reagan <i>Vice Chair/ Clerk</i>	Dr. Lucy Payne <i>Director</i>	Jenny Peterson <i>Director</i>

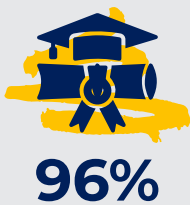
Our Schools	
Mahtomedi Early Childhood & Preschool	Mahtomedi High School (9-12)
Wildwood Elementary School (K-2)	Passages Transition Program
O.H. Anderson Elementary School (3-5)	Mahtomedi Community Education
Mahtomedi Middle School (6-8)	

Mahtomedi Public Schools at a Glance

Our Students (2022-23)

3,176 STUDENTS ENROLLED	Special Education	13.4%
	Educational Benefits	15%
	English Learners	2%

Highlights (2022-23)



Mahtomedi High School's graduation rate continues to be among the highest in the state of Minnesota
(Minnesota Dept. of Education, Class of 2022 data)

96%



Overall rating for traditional schools in Minnesota
(Niche.com)

A



One of 6% of all eligible schools in the U.S. and Canada to earn AP School Honor Roll Gold
(AP-CollegeBoard, 2023)



2023 Reading and Math assessment results are among the top 10 of all Minnesota independent school districts
(Minnesota Dept. of Education)

Top 10



Best Traditional High Schools in Minnesota
(U.S. News & World Report, 2023)

#6

Our Staff & Teachers

Average years as an educator: 17
Average years in our district: 13.5
Educators with Master's: 191 - 81%

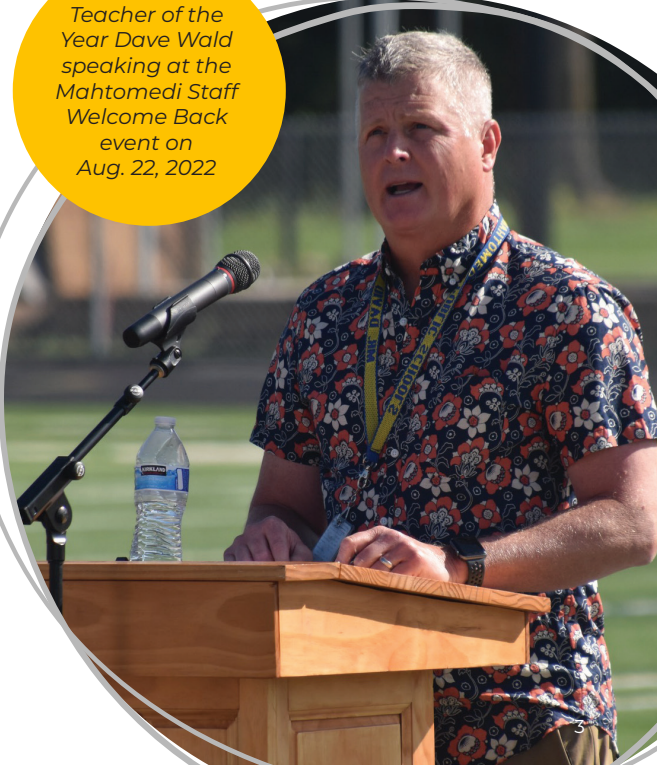
Dave Wald 2022-23 Teacher of the Year

Dave Wald has been teaching mathematics at Mahtomedi High School (MHS) and in the district for over 30 years. He also coaches several teams at MHS, including the Math team (30 years), Girls Soccer (29 years), and Boys Tennis (19 years).

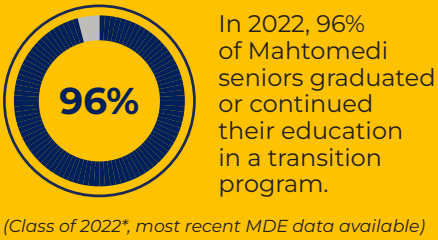
Wald is widely known as a teacher who has greatly impacted the lives of students, athletes, and fellow educators. He was nominated by English teacher John Taylor, who wrote, "You will find few teachers anywhere who put more time and effort into their jobs than Mr. Wald. He has influenced many students with his dedication, work ethic, humor, and compassion over the years and he is truly worthy of being named teacher of the year."

On November 17, 2022, Wald was recognized by the Mahtomedi School Board, where Ann Garry, president of the Mahtomedi Education Association and Spanish teacher at MHS, shared several reflections from colleagues, including comments that described Wald as "a passionate and caring teacher with high expectations," "the hardest working and most dedicated teacher I've ever worked with," and "funny, witty, talented, and someone who truly cares about his students and student-athletes."

Teacher of the Year Dave Wald speaking at the Mahtomedi Staff Welcome Back event on Aug. 22, 2022



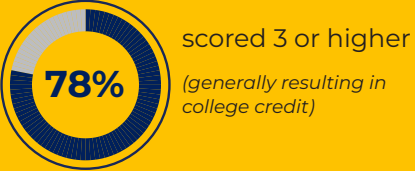
Graduation Rate



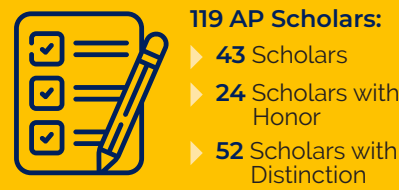
National Merit Scholars



Advanced Placement (AP)



627 AP exams taken by 376 students resulting in



- 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.

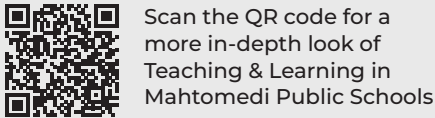
PSEO and College in the Schools (CS) enrollment:

268 students
University of Minnesota college credits earned through CIS

Student participation in rigorous coursework shows us that our high school students are exhibiting academic excellence at a college level.

Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments (MCAs)

In Mahtomedi, we use MCAs to help us understand how well we have aligned our daily lessons to state standards and how well we align our resources to help us to deliver instruction in reading, math, and science.



MCA Highlights

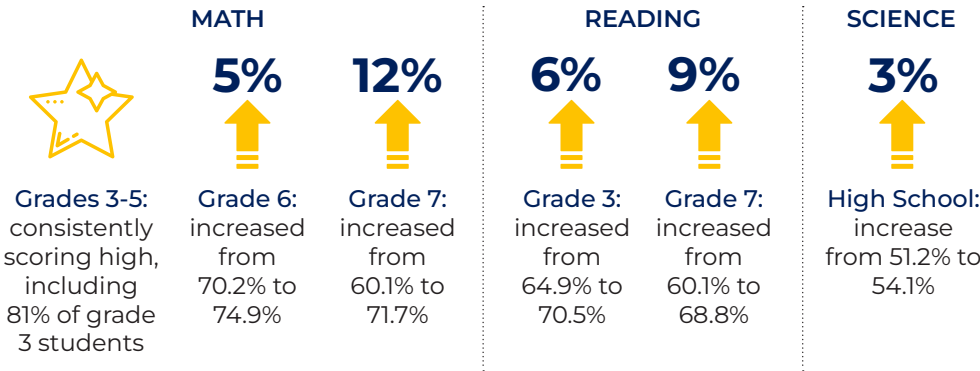
Mahtomedi is proud to have been in the **Top 5 in Math** and the **Top 10 in Reading** of all Minnesota independent school districts for the last three years.

* MCAs were not administered in 2020 or 2021 due to the COVID-19 Pandemic



Academic Growth

We continue to grow in academic proficiency.



Continuous Improvement

We are committed to ensuring the highest level of student achievement and recognize the value of continuous improvement to ensure students have a rigorous and relevant school experience. To do this, we have identified the following continuous improvement efforts for 2023-24:

- | | |
|---|---|
| MATH <ul style="list-style-type: none">As part of the math curriculum review process, professional development focusing on best practices in math instruction and understanding new math standards | READING <ul style="list-style-type: none">Professional development related to the Science of Reading for all teachers in grades 3, 4, and 5Addition of new word study resources and decodable text in all elementary gradesIncreased focus on reading at the middle school |
| SCIENCE <ul style="list-style-type: none">Implementation of new standards & new resources in grades 3-5 and 8* | |
- *grades 6 and 7 were implemented in 2022-23



Did you know?

Mahtomedi consistently ranks in the top 10 of Minnesota Traditional High Schools

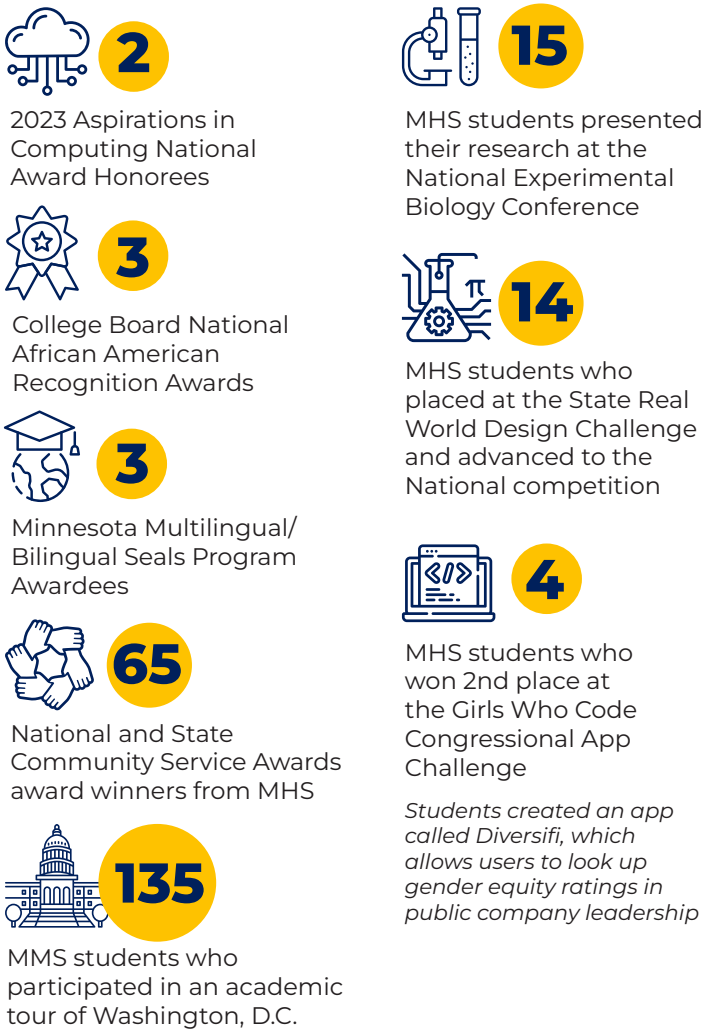
U.S. News & World Report uses six factors for ranking high schools. The factor that is weighted heaviest (30%) is based on the number of students who took and passed Advanced Placement (AP) or International Baccalaureate (IB) exams. While MHS students do have the option to take AP courses and exams, they also have access to College in the Schools (CIS) and Post Secondary Enrollment Options (PSEO). U.S. News & World Report does not account for CIS and PSEO rigorous coursework in their college readiness score. In 2023, Mahtomedi ranked #6 of all Minnesota traditional high schools.

Student Experience

We are uniquely positioning our students to create their future by giving them engaging experiences and exceptional learning opportunities to collaborate, explore their passions, and impact the world, while also ensuring they have adults at school who know and support them. Here are a few noteworthy examples of the way our students exemplified Excellence in Action during the 2022-23 school year.

Excellence by the Numbers 2022-23

Academic Excellence Beyond the Classroom



Activities & Athletics Excellence



Fine Arts Excellence



Students experience excellence through collaboration and relationships



One of the unique ways our students experience excellence in Mahtomedi is through our “cross-building collaboration and relationship-building” initiatives, which allow students in different district schools to learn from each other and continue to grow each year. Last year, such initiatives included: MHS band and choir students visiting OHA, MHS STEM Club hosting the Middle School Science Fair, MHS Ecology students teaching Wildwood students, and MHS Field Psychology students assisting teachers throughout the district.

District Excellence

Through strong district leadership and partnership with the school board, our pursuit of excellence can be seen throughout the district.



Finance

The Association of School Business Officials International (ASBO) again awarded Mahtomedi Public Schools its **Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting (COE)** in 2022-23 (fiscal year 2022). This is the fifth year in a row that Mahtomedi has received this prestigious award. The COE recognizes districts that have met ASBO's highest standards for financial reporting and transparency.



Community Engagement

This year, the Mahtomedi School Board and district leadership team teamed up to offer multiple engagement opportunities for Mahtomedi community members, including Dessert & Dialogues sessions focused on academic excellence and belonging, Coffee & Conversation with school board members, and Zephyr Learning Showcases.

Join us in 2024!

- **Dessert & Dialogue** at St. Andrew's Lutheran Church
» Tuesday, March 12 at 5:30 p.m.
- **Coffee & Conversation** at Mahtomedi District Education Center
» Thursday, Jan. 18 at 10 a.m.
» Thursday, Feb. 22 at 6:15 p.m.
» Thursday, April 11 at 10 a.m.
- **Zephyr Showcase** (see pages 10-11)



Secondary Schedule and Course Offerings

In 2023-24, a new daily schedule at Mahtomedi Middle School and new course offerings at MMS and MHS are supporting the strong foundation we want for our students' success, both now and in the future. The MMS schedule includes additional fine arts offerings as well as "Middle School Success," a class where all students learn academic success skills. MHS has enhanced its career and technology, business, and finance courses, and has implemented new programs to support academic and leadership skill development for post-secondary success.



Branding

During the spring of 2023, our district conducted a comprehensive branding process that included student, staff, and parent engagement, resulting in the outcome of a new and refreshed district logo, website, mobile app, and key brand messages to help us consistently tell the story of Mahtomedi Public Schools.



Science of Reading Implementation

Scan the QR code to watch the LETRS overview video



In 2022-23, our district implemented new literacy professional development coursework called Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling (LETRS) at Wildwood Elementary School. LETRS provides teachers with a deep understanding of the strategies needed to develop skilled readers, from foundational skills to reading comprehension. During the 2023-24 school year, Wildwood teachers are implementing

LETRS and O.H. Anderson Elementary teachers are participating in the professional development work for implementation in 2024-25.



Facilities Improvements

During the summer of 2023, the district made several improvements to facilities, ensuring all spaces are safe, secure, and well-maintained. Among the summer projects:

- Roofs were replaced at all schools and the District Education Center
- 16 new exterior security cameras were installed
- Wildwood's siding was replaced
- Athletic facilities were also updated:
 - » Shot clocks were installed in the MHS main gym, meeting new 2023-24 state requirements for varsity basketball games
 - » The turf was replaced at the stadium and a new scoreboard was installed



MILESTONES ATTAINED: Strategic Plan surpasses goals, sparks need for new Aspirations

During the 2022-23 school year, Mahtomedi Public Schools conducted a strategic plan update process to reflect the growth and momentum our district has made since the implementation of the 2019 strategic plan and to set new aspirations and actions. Using a community-built strategic plan model, over 100 students, staff, families, and community members engaged in the yearlong process to develop the new plan. The School Board reviewed and unanimously approved the plan on June 22, 2023.

The newly adopted Strategic Plan identifies our aspirations as a district, results that we want to see for our students, and the actionable steps we want to see over time.



2023 Strategic Plan Updates

View the full plan at mahtomedi.k12.mn.us/strategic-plan

MISSION

Our mission statement is the declaration of our intent. There are three parts to our mission:

- **Identity** (what we aspire to be)
- **Our Purpose** (our why)
- **Critical Attributes** (how we are going to achieve and the environments we must have to support the 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.

OBJECTIVES

Objectives identify **what we want to see** for our students who go through the Mahtomedi Public Schools system.



- All students are equipped with robust academic knowledge and skills to reach their highest levels of personal achievement.
- All students demonstrate bold learner agency to drive their future.
- All students are kind, compassionate, and inclusive members of the Zephyr community.
- All students discover and pursue their interests.
- All students use their unique strengths and interests to serve others with intention and action.

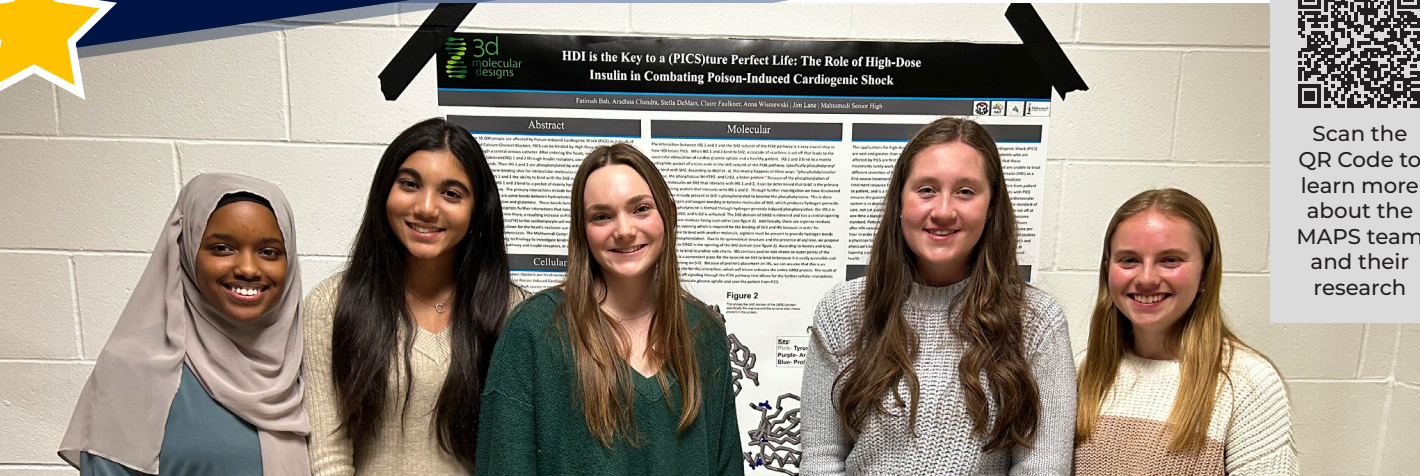
STRATEGIES

Strategies help us accomplish our mission and objectives and **answer how we get there.**



- We will build learner agency through exceptional learning experiences.
- We will create an inclusive and equitable educational system that values diversity and honors individuality.
- We will support the social and emotional well-being of students and staff with an emphasis on mental wellness.
- We will foster trust and partnership amongst all staff, students, families, and community members.
- We will define, cultivate, and celebrate excellence in the many ways it is embodied in our diverse Zephyr community.

Preparing Confident Leaders to Thrive Today and in Their Future



Scan the QR Code to learn more about the MAPS team and their research

Mahtomedi students at the forefront of biological research, channeling their passion to tackle medical challenges head-on

Mahtomedi students with a passion for biology and biochemistry spend their time outside of school engaged in an extracurricular activity called Modeling A Protein Story (MAPS) team. Being a member of the MAPS team gives students an opportunity to pursue collegiate-level research to solve challenges in molecular biology. The students form teams and engage in a 12-month research project on a protein structure. Students then present alongside college or graduate students to biology professionals at the annual American Society of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology national conference held each spring. Each team's presentation lasts for approximately 90 minutes, allowing the team to present their research times to different members of the scientific community.



MAPS team is an opportunity to take control of my own learning, find what I'm passionate about, and share it with a community that is equally willing to learn new things.

Caroline Burge
Class of 2024



Advisor Jim Lane with MHS alumnae Tolu Akintola (Class of 2022), Mya Geiger, founder of MAPS (Class of 2018), and Alyne Torenvliet (Class of 2020).

Before the conference, MAPS members invited the community to Mahtomedi High School to see a preview of their work and provide feedback. Event attendees are often MAPS alumni or community members who work in science-related fields.

Previous MAPS teams have studied Rheumatoid Arthritis, Influenza, Cancer, and COVID-19. In 2023, the teams' projects focused on maturity-onset diabetes of the young, cardiogenic shock, Alzheimer's Disease, and the use of cobra venom to increase cell metabolism in the treatment of insulin deficiencies.

"I am absolutely blown away by the dedication, professionalism, and grit of these students," said Jim Lane, MHS Life Sciences teacher and MAPS advisor. "These young scientists are truly inspiring and give me hope for the future of science and medicine."

To cover expenses to attend the conference, MAPS students hold a variety of fundraisers, including yard work in the community, bagging groceries, and securing grant funding from the Mahtomedi Area Educational Foundation. To ensure all interested students can participate, the team needs to secure approximately \$1,000 per student in sponsorships. If you are interested in supporting this program, please contact MAPS advisor Jim Lane at jim.lane@isd832.net.

Elementary students dive into financial literacy through hands-on classroom economy

Amidst the math and literacy lessons that our elementary students experience each day, the fourth-grade classrooms at O.H. Anderson (OHA) taught by Nick Merges and Sydney Samson are simultaneously running classroom economies. Introducing a classroom economy whereby students learn financial literacy through classroom jobs and Mall Day sales, our educators are finding creative ways to teach essential finance skills, making learning more relevant and engaging for elementary students.

The Classroom Economy

Students start by applying for classroom jobs. Students are then asked to write a paragraph explaining why they would be a good candidate for the position. Once the jobs are filled, students are trained and required to complete their jobs daily. The student workers earn a wage of one dollar per day, collecting their paychecks at the end of the week.

Examples of student jobs include bankers who are in charge of the classroom money; bookkeepers who manage each student's bank account; paymasters are responsible for writing checks; dust busters take care of spraying and clearing desks; the librarian organizes the classroom library and recommends books to others; the secretary answers the classroom phone; and technology specialist help answer tech-related questions about student Chromebook use. Each job is relatively simple and does not require more than a few minutes each day. Once a student receives a paycheck, they may receive it in cash or deposit it into their bank account with the help of a banker. Bankers work with the bookkeepers to keep an accurate log of each bank account in a large binder.

"I have the classroom economy in my class because I want my students to be involved in caring for our classroom and get exposed to real-world situations," said Samson. "It impacts students' learning positively because they get real-world experiences in a not-so-harsh reality. And students are motivated to clean up the classroom and complete their jobs to get paid."

Mall Day

Throughout the year, students have the option to participate in a Mall Day at which students browse and purchase available goods and services from the different student-run businesses. In order to sell goods and services, students must complete a business plan.



Once Mall Day is complete, the classrooms discuss what went well and what could be improved. Students then reapply for new jobs and are trained by their peers who previously held the positions.

"This project connects to helping students explore their passions along with giving students voice and choice in the classroom," Merges said. "Furthermore, it reflects relevant content by exploring finance in a developmentally appropriate way. Many students find it inspiring to open their own business one day or find more interest in the way businesses run in general."

Both Sampson and Merges noted how the classroom economy project helps their students acquire foundational life skills like saving and managing money, while also becoming familiar with banking terms such as withdrawal, deposit, checking, savings, etc. Students also learn how to write a check, how keeping money in the bank is typically safer than in their desk, and how to be responsible for completing a job, all of which help prepare them for their future.



Strategic Plan in Action: 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 showcase, learning about what students are learning every day and how they are applying their learning to real-world projects.

Thank you to our staff and students for sharing their strategic plan-related projects with our community!

Here are a few samples from the 2023-23 school showcases.



Attend a Zephyr Learning Showcase in 2024!

All showcases are held from 6:15-6:45 p.m. at the Mahtomedi District Education Center.

- Thursday, March 14
- Thursday, May 23



Rena Becker, Austin Becker, and Ryan McCoy

Where Everyone Belongs (WEB) Peer Mentoring

The WEB program at MMS runs throughout the year, pairing veteran eighth-grade students with new sixth-grade students.



Greta Liner, Luke Vipond, Caleb Hilton, and Sam Tjornhom

Maht-O-Make It Club

The Maht-O-Make It club is a group at MHS that combines STEM, art, and business skills to produce and sell items made in the school's Fabrication Lab.



Ethan Stout, Charlie DeHaan, Cameron Behnke, and Kieran Vik

Lego League Robotics

The Mahtomedi Community Education Lego League Robotics program incorporates coding, collaboration, research, and public speaking in a fun team activity. In 2022-23, the team received the Minnesota Programming Award at the regional competition.



Kaia Ramaley, Sabrina Corbera, and Zoe Roettger

MHS Student Support Time Scheduler

The Student Support Time scheduler allows MHS students to easily schedule their Flex time activity, which is a dedicated period during the school day that allows time for additional academic support, independent work, wellness activities, and club meetings.



Band teacher Laura Goucher, Ishana Diswania, Zoe Roettger, and Luke Roettger

MHS Band Project

Every year, MHS band students get creative by taking one of their musical pieces and rearranging or sharing it in unique ways. Students have explored several ways to express the music through websites, videos, and even paired with poetry.



Animiki Nevilles, Connor Hagen, Nadia Jones, and FACS teacher Rochelle Gresafe

MHS Culinary Program

Students in the culinary program at MHS have the opportunity to explore culinary careers and acquire certifications that help them advance and explore careers in the culinary and hospitality industry.



Maira Taylor, Jaylen Garrity, Gus Haschig, Ethan Buckingham, and Grade 5 teacher Alexa Gibson

OHA Morning News

The OHA Morning News is a live, daily news show assembled and performed by students. The show is broadcasted each morning via Google Meet to the entire school.



Stella Seuffert, Bella Jawor, and Olivia Sowada

Courage Retreat

The Courage Retreat is an annual activity for MMS seventh-grade students to create a positive school community by engaging in a variety of activities focused on enhancing self-confidence, empathy, and connectedness.



Ana Skaja, Mia Weinberger, Ankiabom Buomsimbom, and vocal teacher Julie Conzemius

Lion King, Jr.

MMS students shared their experiences auditioning, rehearsing, and performing for the school's production of Lion King, Jr., as well as at the State Honor Choir Competition.



Mayzie Smieja, Grade 3 teacher Katie Nestrud, Augie Wollack, Ari Swan, Paco Bawar, Brecken Zahler, and Savannah Young

OHA Biography Project

OHA students conduct an animal research project that encourages choice and expression in the topic and presentation, while also learning fundamental research skills.



MAHTOMEDI
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

1520 Mahtomedi Avenue,
Mahtomedi, MN 55115

About Mahtomedi Public Schools

Mahtomedi Public Schools equips students with a world-class education through meaningful and rigorous learning experiences that support them to develop their leadership, ignite their passions, and impact their community. Through our holistic, community approach, we prepare confident learners to thrive today and in their future.



ALUMNI &
FRIENDS



BECOME A
ZEPHYR!



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INVOLVED



Download our new mobile app today!

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