

Ruth Marshall, High School/ Middle School Principal

Count

6th- 78

7th-67

8th-92

Total- 237

Staffing

Through grant funding, we were able to add a new parent liaison position K-12. We hired Katie Hatchew to fill this role. This role will focus on improving student attendance by building relationships with families, connecting them with needed services, promoting consistent school attendance, and helping identify and remove barriers that may impact student success.

We hope to add a 6-12 math teacher to start in January. We have just posted for this position.

Curriculum

Nothing new to report for October

Events

Upcoming-

P/T conferences are Wednesday, October 22nd from 4-7pm. We are running conferences a little differently this year. From 4-6pm, families may sign up for time slots with individual teachers. Then from 6-7pm it will be open for families to drop in to talk with teachers, no appointment needed.

Past-

Homecoming was a fun-filled week, including, dress up days, a pep assembly and powder puff football.

Our 6th grade took a trip to the Dragon Trail on Friday, October 10th.

Our 7th grade had a great trip to Grand Rapids for Art Prize and a trip to the GRAM (Grand Rapids Art Museum)

Clark Huntley, Athletics

1. Isabella Bank has donated funds to purchase 2 new scoreboards for the elementary gym.

Scoreboards will be installed on Monday, October 20.

2. We will be hosting volleyball districts on November 3rd, 5th and 6th.

3. Middle school boys' basketball begins on October 27.

4. High school boys' basketball begins on November 12.

5. High school girls' basketball begins on November 19.

John Nawrot, Morley Stanwood Elementary Principal

September 15: Mohawks in Motion resumed. For the 2025-2026 school year, the focus has been on 4th and 5th grade students. The group meets twice a week (Mondays and Thursdays) to walk, run, and participate in physical activities such as relay races, capture the flag, and more. I am grateful for the efforts of Katie Doyle, Tara Lovejoy, Shawnda Starr, Courtney Cox, and Mary Bennett as they volunteer their time to support students through this program.

September 23: Jamey Nelson, Ruth Marshall, Molly Schultz and I met with Lori Bruggema to discuss discipline procedures as they relate to students identified for special education. This meeting/training was part of the work we are doing to enhance compliance with MDE's guidelines for student discipline for students with IEPs.

September 25: MSE hosted Family Science Night. 349 attendees and nearly 30 volunteers were treated to an evening of hands-on, science learning, a chance to take home a new book, a chance to win wonderful prizes and book sets, a delicious dinner and more. A special thank you to Sarah Benson for her planning and organization of this event.

September 29-30: MSE hosted the Scholastic Book Fair. This event allowed families to add to and enhance home libraries at reasonable prices. Mrs. Estes reports that this was the most successful book fair in recent years. A special thank you to her and to the PTO volunteers who staff this event during and after school hours.

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September 30: I attended the MOISD Elementary Principal's meeting with other ISD colleagues. I participated in a Well-being Welcome, discussed goals for the year for these collaborative sessions, reviewed the ISD's mission, vision and core values, discussed ISD coaching cycles, and reviewed and responded to the behavioral support continuum and more.

October 6: The MSE-CIT (Continuous Improvement Team) met with our middle and high school counterparts for an evening of work with Sara Shriver. During this workshop we reviewed the Continuous Improvement Process, reviewed our MICIP Plan, analyzed the completion of our strategies & activities, and worked on updating and completing our Comprehensive Needs Assessment.

October 7 & 8: Staff and students were treated to Fire Safety Presentations by Chief Peacock and other members of the Mecosta Township Fire Department. Students were also provided with an opportunity to explore a fire truck.

October 9: The 4th grade attended a field trip to Mitchell State Park in Cadillac. This field trip is part of the DNR's Nature Awaits series and works to connect 4th grade students with state parks and outdoor recreation activities. Staff and students reported that this was an excellent experience.

October 10: Marla Estes and I attended Title I Compliance Training at the MOISD. This was the first of four sessions that are designed to prepare Title I schools for an on-site review. MSE was not selected for one of these reviews this year, but will likely be required to participate in the next year or two. It's my hope that this training will help us to be better prepared for such a review.

October 13 & 14: 5th graders embarked on the Camp Henry Field Trip. Students, teachers, and other chaperones participated in a variety of outdoor recreational and educational activities such as laser tag, the Giant Swing, "Survivor Games," fire building, slingshot and archery practice, and much more. This field trip, which traditionally occurs in the spring, was moved to the fall to allow for teachers to build upon the lessons of perseverance and teamwork throughout the year. The trip also offers an opportunity for teachers to develop relationships with their students as well as the students from other homerooms.

On-Going Matters:

The addition of a school liaison officer, Deputy Losinski, has been a positive for the building. He has taught lessons to first and fourth grade classrooms and has been a positive presence in the building. He even supported students by volunteering to

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chaperone the Camp Henry field trip. He also reported an incredibly positive experience.

Enrollment Update:

2025-2026	Sept.	Oct.
DK	15	15
Kdg.	56	58
1st	77	78
2nd	76	77
3rd	75	75
4th	69	68
5th	62	63
ECSE	5	5
Total	435	439

Jamey Nelson, Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment Director

BOLD highlights new additions to continued implementation and monitoring

Curriculums:

K-5 curriculums and apps/programs are now able to sign into through a single source called an SSO. Our SSO is named Clever. Students and teachers do not have to remember usernames and passwords anymore.

Continued: We have a core curriculum in all of our buildings. The curriculums are posted on our website for stakeholder review. The curriculums are:

Mathematics K-12: McGraw Hill-Glencoe (Everyday Mathematics)

English K-5: Bookworms/Mystery Writing English 6-12: HMH Into Literature/Reading

Social Studies K-3: Studies Weekly (Newspaper tactile format) Social Studies 4-12: TCI

Science K-5: Mystery Science

Science 6-8: Cereal City

Science 9-12: Savvas Realize

Instruction

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K-12 staff are focusing on Tier 1 instruction by tracking the priority standard frequency. The priority standards are directly tied to tested items. The goal is to improve assessment results through this focus.

Continued: Tier 2 and 3 instruction is still available through guided teacher instruction, paraprofessionals and special education teachers.

Assessment

K-12 are currently using IXL to provide continued assessment of skill. As skills are assessed IXL builds learning plans for them in real time. IXL is the highest utilized program in the district.

Continued: Elementary and Middle school completeFastbridge testing three times a year.. The elementary uses their September results for their IRIP process identifying students for interventions. The Middle School uses their results to place interventions during the advisory period. High School assessment changed platforms to Progress Learning(purchased Horizons). High School also tests three times a year. Assessment results allow students to access a set of instructional materials to support the improvement of test scores.

Professional Development

School improvement training occurred on October 6th. The focus is reviewing last year's data, updating the plan and also monitoring our plan. Results were shown in the presentation.

Continued: Standards Based teaching and Learning is in Year three of 6. First training occurred August 20th. We will have individual department meetings through the year and grade level band meetings and training.

School Improvement

School improvement meetings are October 6th, 2025, December 11th, 2025, April 14th, 2026, and June 4th, 2026. The team consists of K-12 staff and parents.

Continued: Our current school improvement plan is active from 2023-2028. It is monitored and adjusted each year and in 2028 we will determine the success rate. Then a new five year cycle will begin.

Phil Stier, Technology Director

Earlier this month, all new Lithium Backup power supplies were installed in the network closets to prevent damage to the network equipment in the event of a

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power surge or brown out. This was made possible through the E-Rate funding source. Currently, I'm working with the district and vendors for the upcoming E-Rate cycle from 2026-2030. This will allow us to update our core network equipment as well as wireless communication.

Kristy Thompson, Transportation Director

The Bus Garage is fully employed now.

Kelli Molitor, Food Service Director

Food Service is rolling in October! This week is National School Lunch week. This year's theme is "Taste the World." So this week we are enjoying options for lunch from around the world.

At the high school level we are featuring a different area of the world each day.

Monday, we are featuring China, with General Tso's Chicken.

Tuesday, we are featuring Mexico with Crisпитos.

Wednesday, we are featuring Italy with Tortellini.

Thursday, we are featuring Japan with Japanese Cherry Chicken

Friday, we are featuring the Caribbean with Jerk Chicken.

At the elementary level, they will be featuring side dishes from around the globe! And also have stickers to pass out to our students who try our new side dishes.

Lori Bruggema, Special Education Supervisor

Morley Stanwood is servicing 10 students with active 504 plans.

Morley Stanwood currently has 111 students receiving special education programming with special education teachers as case managers.

ECSE + Elementary - 41

Middle - 31

High - 39

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Kellsey Fairris, Director of Finance and Grants

HOLD THE PHONE! We have a budget!

Grants

The Consolidated Application was initially opened for Title I only but has now been reopened to

include Title II (Professional Development) and Title IV (Student Support & Academic

Enrichment). These allocations are consistent with amounts received in previous years.

I plan to

complete these applications before November 1, and we have received prior approval for any

Title II activities occurring before that date.

Preliminary information has also been released for several State Grants. Funding for 31aa Mental

Health & Safety will remain roughly the same as last year, which is still about half of the amount

awarded during the program's first allocation. Funding for 35a(5) Additional Instructional Time,

historically used to support the Elementary Summer Learning Program, has been eliminated. I

will be reallocating funds to cover this program under a different grant. On a positive note, 31a

At Risk received an increase of approximately \$234,000.

Finance

The state School Aid Budget was released with a per-pupil allocation of \$10,050, slightly higher than the

\$10,000 originally budgeted—great news for our district. I had projected 955 students, but preliminary

count data indicates enrollment is coming in above that estimate. The enrollment stabilization revenue

line also remains in place.

On the expense side, retirement costs have increased, and we are no longer receiving some of the

offsetting revenue that previously helped cover these expenses. The good news is that school meal

funding has been continued for the upcoming year.

School State Aid Key Funding Changes

Foundation Allowance

Increased to \$10,000 per pupil, up \$392 (4.1%) from FY2025.

Cyber schools will be funded at 80% of this rate (\$8,000).

Represents the third consecutive year of per-pupil increases aimed at closing funding gaps between districts.

Weighted & Student-Specific Funding

4.1% increases applied to categorical components such as At-Risk (31a), English

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Language Learners, rural/isolation factors, and Career & Technical Education (CTE).

Designed to better serve students with higher educational or socioeconomic needs.

At-Risk (Section 31a)

Funding increased by approximately \$234,000 for qualifying districts.

Supports interventions for students identified as academically at risk.

Mental Health & Safety (Section 31aa / 31n)

Maintains funding levels similar to FY2025.

Continues support for school-based mental health services, safety coordination, and threat

assessment programs.

Additional Instructional Time (Section 35a[5])

Funding eliminated. Historically supported elementary summer learning.

Districts may need to reallocate funds through other grant sources to maintain programming.

Special Education / ISD Adjustments

Increases in allocations and adjustments to equalization formulas to reduce regional disparities.

Emphasis on transparency and consistency across Intermediate School Districts (ISDs).

Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP)

Expanded eligibility to all four-year-olds, prioritizing low-income families.

Increased per-slot foundation rate and oversight shifted to MiLEAP.

Reinforces the state's long-term commitment to early childhood education.

SMART Metrics and Accountability

Implementation of new data-driven accountability metrics ("SMART") to measure performance, progress, and transparency.

Schools must report outcomes in literacy, attendance, and growth metrics.

Best Practices & Tutoring Support

\$250 million allocated statewide for targeted student supports and tutoring initiatives.

Designed to accelerate learning recovery and promote academic proficiency.

Teacher Recruitment and Retention

Partial restoration of "Grow Your Own" educator pipeline funding.

Incentives for mentoring, professional development, and certification completion remain, though funding levels are lower than FY2025.

One-Time vs. Ongoing Funds

Reduction in one-time appropriations as ESSER and pandemic-era federal funds expire.

Shift toward building sustainable, ongoing program budgets.

Enrollment and Stabilization Funds

Statewide enrollment projected to decline by approximately 0.5%.

Enrollment stabilization mechanisms remain to prevent funding volatility.