



The mosinee link

A LINK BETWEEN THE DISTRICT AND ITS CITIZENS

Challenge Academy Offers Alternative for At-Risk Students

Mr. Kevin Sanchez, MHS Special Education Teacher, and Mr. Scott Gremminger, MHS Associate Principal, had the opportunity to tour the **Challenge Academy**, an alternative school option located on the Fort McCoy military base near Tomah, WI. They were transported from the Stevens Point Airport via a Black Hawk helicopter.



Mr. Gremminger commented, "This was a once-in-a-lifetime experience for the both of us. We were excited to be offered this opportunity to ride in the helicopter and learn more about the Challenge Academy."

The Challenge Academy offers at-risk youth age 16 years 9 months to 18 years old an opportunity to alter their life path. The program focuses on eight core components: academic excellence, physical training, job skills, service to community, health and hygiene, responsible citizenship, leadership/followership, and life coping skills. Upon successful completion of the program's requirements, students can either earn a High School Equivalency Diploma or return to their school to graduate with their class.

For more information on all the Challenge Academy offers, contact Mr. Gremminger or Mr. Sanchez at 715-693-2550.

Pictured above: Mr. Sanchez and Mr. Gremminger rode in a Black Hawk helicopter to visit the Challenge Academy.

Christmas and New Year's Filled with Activities and Joy



David Muñoz
Superintendent of Schools

The Mosinee School District successfully completed half a year of school with students almost always in-person. I look back and give thanks for an outstanding end to 2021. District staff and community members, along with local churches, banks and the paper mill, all contributed in making the holiday season a little brighter for students and their families. A total of 126 students were sponsored by mainly staff members with some help from community donors, and 13 families were directly sponsored by community donors. The Mosinee School District community showed how amazingly generous

it truly is for those families in need of gifts for their kids. This gift giving partnership has existed for years and continues to be a wonderful example of the many community partners pooling together resources to buy gifts, give money, and provide time to organize and deliver items to families in need. Thank you all for helping to make the Mosinee School District community a destination for those searching for not only an outstanding educational environment but also a community that focuses on caring, giving, and serving one another.

FCCLA members sold various items at the Christmas Craft Sale to fundraise money to be used for needy families in our community. They also rang bells for The Salvation Army. The FFA participated in a gift exchange while also attending the Marshfield Rotary Winter Wonderland event. The halls of our school district buildings were filled with holiday activity, decorations and sounds throughout the second half of December.

The band and choir students in both the middle school and high school performed Christmas concerts for the community to showcase their talents while celebrating the season. The 2nd grade elementary school students performed their Christmas concert live for a wonderful audience in the Creske Center Auditorium. Special thanks to all of our talented student and staff musicians for making the season that much more special with their efforts.

I encourage all of our Mosinee School District community members to stay connected as much as you're able with this same caring and serving spirit as we move into the deep winter. Feel free to stop out to use the pool and fitness center, catch a show in the auditorium, and/or cheer on our student athletes competing through most of February and part of March before we enter the spring sports season. All facility hours, events, and performances can be found on the main page of the school district website, www.mosineeschools.org, under the Upcoming Events at the bottom of the page, or through the Community and Athletics tabs in the top menu bar.

Tail Waggin' Tutor Encourages Kids to Read

Some kids don't enjoy reading while others struggle with the skill. What would make reading more fun and help build a child's self-esteem? Reading to a dog! **Mosinee High School Library Club**, along with **Danelle Ley**, MHS teacher, started **Reading Unleashed Nights**.

The MHS Library Club and advisor **Kerri Leszczynski** were looking for a way to reach out to the community. Mrs. Leszczynski knew that Lucy, Mrs. Ley's golden retriever, was certified through the Therapy Dogs International Organization, as well as a certified Tail Waggin' Tutor. The two collaborated and Reading Unleashed was launched.



Library Club members, Mrs. Leszczynski, Mrs. Ley, and volunteers from MHS National Honor Society hosted the first Reading Unleashed Night in December. It was a great success, with nine students participating and everyone having a blast! The January event reached even more kids, with 19 coming to read with Lucy. The next Reading Unleashed Night will be February 8th, from 6:00-7:30 pm in the Mosinee High School IMC.

The MHS Library Club and Mrs. Leszczynski would like to thank the following donors who provided free books, bookmarks, food, drinks, and more for the students who attended the events:

TDS (ensuring all kids receive a book to take home!), **Ahlstrom-Muncksjö**, **Pinewood Supper Club**, **SC Swiderski, LLC**, **Next Level Creations**, **Red Oak Builders**, **Mosinee Area Chamber of Commerce**, **Hannah Kyhos**

Pictured above top: Lucy listens attentively as the boys read to her.

Pictured above bottom: MHS Library Club members and Reading Unleashed participants at the December event.

Patriot's Pen & Voice of Democracy Essay Winners

Each year, the VFW sponsors Patriot's Pen and Voice of Democracy, essay competitions to help foster patriotism among today's youth. This year, MMS 7th graders wrote about the Patriot's Pen topic: "How Can I be a Good American?" with **Izabella Furman** winning first place. "America: Where Do We Go From Here?" was the question posed to MHS juniors in the Voice of Democracy contest. Students wrote a 3-5 minute essay, which they read aloud to three judges. Five were then chosen to be audio-taped and judged by the VFW with **Ashley Colden** winning first place. Congratulations!



Pictured above (l to r): MMS winners of the local Patriot's Pen writing contest were (back row): VFW Rep. Jack Ganser, Nancy Reuter (7th Grade ELA), Abigail Kluz (7th), Evan Colden (5th) Dana Kamke (7th Grade ELA), VFW Rep. Jim Morris, VFW Rep. Mark Bennett, (front row): Blayne Crawford (6th), Marissa Swita (4th), Izabella Furman (1st), Aidan Yelkin (2nd), and Parker Wogernese (3rd).



Pictured above (l to r): MMS winners of the local Voice of Democracy writing contest were VFW Rep. Mark Bennett, VFW Rep. Jack Ganser, Lauryn Thomas (5th), Ashley Colden (1st), Kylie Maliszewski (3rd), Gabriella Muñoz (2nd), Katelyn Kramer (4th), Ann Kedrowski (HS English) and VFW Rep. Jim Morris.

MMS Ski & Snowboard Club

Mosinee Middle School has 63 students in grades 4-8 participating in Ski & Snowboard Club this year. Club members travel to Granite Peak on Thursdays from 3:30-7:30 pm for seven weeks of winter fun. Students can take lessons with Granite Peak staff if they choose, and they get to enjoy all Granite Peak has to offer.

Pictured right (l to r): Martina Mullins, Isabella Rein, Charlotte Sirny, and Lauren Creske take a break from skiing to pose with the Granite Peak snow sculpture.



Mosinee Leads the NTC Region in Dual Credits Awarded and Youth Apprenticeships

The K-12 Annual Report for the 2020-2021 school year was released in November and Mosinee High School has once again led the region in both dual credits awarded and youth apprenticeships. "This is another testament to the hard work and dedication from our staff and our community members to help our students become career and/or college ready, which is a main focus in our vision at Mosinee High School," Principal Nathan Lehman said. The MHS staff continually looks for opportunities to help students prepare for their future outside of high school, whether that means going to college, going into the workforce, or both. It is exciting to see students taking advantage of the many opportunities available at Mosinee High School.

2020-21 Dual Credit Taken/Earned

High School	# of Students	Credits Taken	Credits Earned	Tuition Value (NTC Prices)
Mosinee	296	2262	1887	\$293,805.90
Wausau West	508	1623	1150	\$179,055.00
Stratford	137	1044	984	\$153,208.80
Merrill	247	1324	965	\$150,250.50
DC Everest	339	1000	862	\$134,213.40
Antigo	224	1298	791	\$123,158.70
Medford	210	992	787	\$122,535.90
Chequamegon	135	859	619	\$96,378.30
Colby	133	569	478	\$74,424.60
Phillips	102	673	461	\$71,777.70

High School	# of Students	Credits Taken	Credits Earned	Tuition Value (NTC Prices)
Abbotsford	88	480	404	\$62,902.80
Wittenberg-Birnamwood	104	522	397	\$61,812.90
Athens	80	541	393	\$61,190.10
Loyal	69	418	378	\$58,854.60
Edgar	84	407	343	\$53,405.10
Wausau East	185	582	279	\$43,440.30
Prentice	48	305	272	\$42,350.40
Spencer	52	286	206	\$32,074.20
Medford Area: RVA	46	225	165	\$25,690.50
Marathon	49	167	153	\$23,822.10

Dual Credits

The partnership that Mosinee High School has with Northcentral Technical College leads to the highest number of tuition credits attempted and the highest tuition value in the NTC consortium. MHS students earn credits for college, saving them money and helping with their college and career aspirations. Many students have a year, even two years, finished with college by the time they graduate from MHS.

Youth Apprenticeships

The Mosinee School District has many different partnerships with local businesses. These partnerships help students who want hands-on learning in an occupational area at a worksite along with classroom instruction. The data to the right shows the number of students that partnered with local businesses and received an accredited youth apprenticeship certificate. To receive a certificate, students need to accomplish a set of standards, including 450 successful work hours for the company they are working for.

YA Students By High School in the Northcentral Technical College Consortium

Mosinee	46	Loyal	7
D.C. Everest	43	Phillips	7
Stratford	28	Spencer	7
Chequamegon	24	Bowler	6
Wausau West	23	Colby	5
Athens	15	Abbotsford	4
Medford	14	D.C. Everest IDEA School	3
Wausau East	14	Rural Virtual Academy	3
Antigo	13	Homeschooled	2
Edgar	9	Marathon	2

MHS School-to-Work Program Looking to Connect with Local Employers

Mosinee High School's School-to-Work program gives students the opportunity to work for a local business during the school day while also earning high school credits through Youth Apprenticeship and internship courses. Students are placed into positions based on their job interests and vacancies shared by employers with School-to-Work Coordinator **Susan Swinick**, or into positions the students have secured on their own.

Mosinee High School has many hard-working students who are interested in going into the workforce through Youth Apprenticeship and internship courses, and MHS places great importance on partnering with local businesses. The School-to-Work program is currently looking to connect with local employers regarding their workforce needs and ability to fill that need with high school students. If any local businesses are interested in partnering with Mosinee High School or if they have any questions on the School-to-Work program, please contact Mrs. Swinick at sswinick@mosineeschools.org.

“Mosinee Miracle Christmas Tree”

In lieu of students exchanging classmate gifts or bringing a gift for their teacher, the elementary students brought in food items for the “Mosinee Miracle Christmas Tree.”



The food was collected under the tree throughout the month of December. Students brought in 3,961 individual containers/packs/cans, etc. of food! The items were donated to **Feeding Our Future** to benefit kids at the Mosinee Elementary School.

Classroom teachers also discussed the importance of giving to others who are truly in need during the holiday season.

Pictured above (l to r): Kendra Susor, Zachery Xiong, Layla Fochs and Simon Meidl hold up a few of the food items that were donated for the “Mosinee Miracle Christmas Tree.”

“Changing the Future” 2nd Grade Holiday Concert Collection

The Mosinee Elementary School 2nd grade students collected change to donate to the **Community Center of Hope**. The 2nd grade students brought in different coins each weekday – pennies on Monday, nickels on Tuesday, dimes on Wednesday, quarters on Thursday and dollar bills on Friday. Between the six classes, the students raised a total of \$1,059.68. The collection took place in collaboration with the 2nd grade holiday concert, “Super Celebration,” directed by **Mrs. Amber Theiss**. At the concert on Friday, December 10th, the audience donated an additional \$297.31. Their generosity brought the grand total of the donation to \$1,356.99!



Pictured above (l to r): (back row): Caleb Dahlke, Community Center of Hope Executive Director Amy Bergstrom, Hailey Schwede, (front row): Hudson Skutak, Annabeth Luebbe, Olivia Johnson, and Wyatt King with the donation check.

5th Graders Share Holiday Gifts with Community & Businesses

Mosinee Middle School’s fifth-grade students put together gift items to share with local businesses and the community. Students worked in groups to make a variety of holiday gift items. One group assembled live pine door swags, while another group created a “happy reindeer” with hand-painted ornaments as decoration. Some students worked to layer and decorate hot cocoa gift jars, while others tied warm, fleece scarves to share with anyone in the community who may need one.

The students, along with their fifth-grade teachers, then walked to downtown Mosinee and presented the handmade gifts to local businesses that were open and within walking distance during the allotted time frame. The gift making was a fun activity for students and sharing them with the community showed kids the satisfaction of giving to others during this special time of year.



Pictured above (l to r): Addison Erickson and Josslyn Liebrecht deliver gifts to Pearle Vision.

Kindergarten Donates Blankets to Local Children’s Hospital

Several kindergarten classes at Mosinee Elementary School made tie blankets to donate to the **Marshfield Children’s Hospital** for the holidays. The students learned to tie knots, and the classes talked about how the blankets would be gifts for the children in the hospital who wouldn’t be able to spend the holidays at home. It was rewarding for the students to be able to brighten the holidays for other children.

Pictured right (l to r): Courtney Kobs, Keegan Ellis, Sarai Arbaiza-Pena and Wesley Lamontagne proudly show the tie blankets they made for the Marshfield Children’s Hospital.



MHS Math Club & Math League

MHS Math Club is a student-led organization that encourages and supports the study of mathematics, fellowship, and community. Members help with fundraisers to finance mathematics scholarships and can participate in UWSP Math League competitions.



The first Math League meet was held virtually in November. Twenty-one students participated by taking an exam in one of the three categories: geometry, algebra, and advanced mathematics. Mosinee is allowed to submit 4 student exams per category plus alternates. The top exam scores for meet 1 were: **Ethan Colden** (Geometry), **Noah Nechuta** (Algebra), and **Trevor Garski** (Advanced). The second meet will be held virtually on February 9th.

Pictured above (l to r): Math Club officers: Treasurer Eli Miland, Media Specialist Nolan Harris, Co-Presidents Trevor Garski and Charlie Spink, Vice President Annabella Kennedy, and Secretary Carissa Best.

Open Enrollment Dates

February 7 - April 29, 2022

The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) has announced the dates for public school Open Enrollment for the 2022-23 school year. Children in 5-year-old kindergarten through grade 12 may participate. Open enrollment for prekindergarten, 4K and early childhood education is limited. Parents with children in these age groups must contact their resident school district to see if their children are eligible. If you would like your child to attend a different public school next year, you must apply to the school district of choice between **February 7 and April 29, 2022. Applications must be received by 4:00 pm on April 29, 2022. Late applications will not be accepted.** Parents may apply online at <https://dpi.wi.gov/oe>. For more information: Toll-free: 888-245-2732, option 2; Email: openenrollment@dpi.wi.gov; Website: <https://dpi.wi.gov/oe>. You may also call Carrie Kunderinger at the Mosinee School District with questions: 715-693-2530.

4K Registration Now Open For 2022-23 School Year

The enrollment process is now open for any students entering 4K (4-year-old kindergarten) for the 2022-23 school year. Children who are four years old on or before September 1, 2022 are eligible to register.

The 4K web page (https://www.mosineeschools.org/families/4K_Information.cfm) on the Mosinee School District website provides an overview of the 4K program and also step-by-step registration instructions. The first and most important step is registering your child in Mosinee's Skyward Family Access. Busing transportation forms can also be completed at this time. **The 4K site preference form will open at noon on February 9, 2022.**

Please call the elementary school at 715-693-2810 if you have any questions or need assistance with the registration process.

1st Annual MMS Turkey Bowl Challenge



The Mosinee Middle School Student Council held their 1st Annual Turkey Bowl Challenge. For each canned or non-perishable food item brought in, students were able to enter their name in the contest. For three days during lunch, random names were drawn for a chance to bowl a frozen turkey down the alley and earn some great prizes. Over 600 items were collected and went to **Feeding Our Future**, the food pantry that the middle school operates.

Pictured above left: Mr. Rheinschmidt cheers on Bennett Engstrom as he gets ready to bowl the frozen turkey.

Pictured above right (l to r): Back row: Elena Jacobs, Bennett Engstrom, Front row: Madalyn Luebbe, Alexander Fisher, Sophia Lewens, and Briella Schremp participated in the Turkey Bowl Challenge.

Mosinee Board of Education Notes

At the January 17, 2022 regular Board of Education meeting, the Board approved the following:

- minutes from the regular Board of Education meeting on December 21, 2021
- 2022-23 school calendar
- open enrollment resolution
- acceptance of technology grants - Emergency Connectivity Fund
- post employment health reimbursement arrangement plan resolution
- December's monthly voucher list and treasurer's report
- Summer school principal and math interventionist hires

The next regular Board of Education meeting will be Tuesday, February 15, 2022 at 6:00 pm at the District Educational Service Center. The public is invited to attend.

PTO Notes

Highlights from the January PTO meeting:

- The PTO will be hosting a community-building activity during the month of February. Please watch the PTO Facebook page for more information about this event.
- Mini-grants are available to staff who want to integrate innovative ideas into the classroom. Forms are available to begin the process for any teachers who are interested in applying. (Funds must be used for enriching activities for students, not a classroom supply or field trip.)
- The PTO will be providing snacks and juice to the elementary school for the 100th day of school - February 7, 2022.
- MHS seniors can apply for three \$250 scholarships given by the Mosinee PTO.
- The PTO is planning an Ice Cream Social and Movie Event that will take place in April or May for students in grades 4K-5 and their families.

The next PTO meeting is Monday, February 14, 2022 at 6:00 pm, in the Mosinee High School IMC.

Community Input Requested

Mosinee School District is asking for the community's input on co-teaching and the middle school cafeteria addition. Please complete the survey by February 20, 2022. <https://tinyurl.com/3wdk7a69>

February Calendar of Events

February 25 **NO SCHOOL** - District Inservice

MOSINEE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

- 8 Parent-Teacher Conferences 4:00pm-8:00pm
- 10 Parent-Teacher Conferences 4:00pm-8:00pm
- 11 1st Grade Concert - Creske Auditorium 1:00pm
- 14 PTO Meeting - HS IMC 6:00pm-6:45pm

MOSINEE MIDDLE SCHOOL

- 1 7th Gr. GBB A - Tomahawk (H - Creske Gym) 4:00pm
- 8th Gr. GBB A - Tomahawk (H - Creske Gym) 5:00pm
- 3 8th Gr. GBB B - Wisconsin Rapids (A) 4:00pm
- 7th Gr. GBB A - Wisconsin Rapids (A) 5:00pm
- 8th Gr. GBB A - Wisconsin Rapids (A) 5:00pm
- 4 Gr. 6-8 Dance 7:00pm-10:00pm
- 5 8th Gr. GBB A - Tournament (A - Witt-Birn) 8:00am
- 8 8th Gr. GBB B - Antigo (A) 4:00pm
- 10 7th Gr. GBB A - Tomahawk (A) 4:00pm
- 8th Gr. GBB A - Almond Bancroft (A) 5:00pm
- 8th Gr. GBB B - Tomahawk (A) 5:00pm
- 15 8th Gr. GBB B - DC Everest (A) 4:00pm
- 7th Gr. GBB A - DC Everest (A) 5:00pm
- 8th Gr. GBB A - DC Everest (A) 5:00pm
- 24 8th Gr. GBB B - Ben Franklin (H - Creske Gym) 4:00pm
- 7th Gr. GBB A - Ben Franklin (H - ES Gym) 5:00pm
- 8th Gr. GBB A - Ben Franklin (H - Creske Gym) 5:00pm
- 26 District Solo & Ensemble - Wausau East HS 8:00am-3:00pm

MOSINEE HIGH SCHOOL

- 1 Hockey - GNC Meet (TBD) 7:00pm
- BBB - New London (H) 7:15pm
- GBB - Amherst (A) 7:30pm
- 3 Gymnastics - Medford (H) 5:45pm
- 4 Gymnastics - Invitational (A - Marshfield) 4:30pm
- BBB - Rhinelander (A) 7:15pm
- GBB - Rhinelander (H) 7:15pm
- 5 Wrestling - GNC Meet (H) 10:00am
- Hockey - Madison Memorial (H) 6:00pm
- 8 Hockey - GNC Meet (TBD) 7:00pm
- BBB - Northland Pines (H) 7:15pm
- GBB - Northland Pines (A) 7:15pm
- 10 Gymnastics - Rhinelander (A) 5:45pm
- GBB - Wisconsin Rapids Lincoln (H) 7:15pm
- 11 BBB - Merrill (A) 7:15pm
- 12 Wrestling - Wautoma (A) 8:30am
- Hockey - GNC Meet (A - Lakeland) 1:00pm
- 15 GBB - Freedom (H) 5:45pm
- BBB - Altoona (H) 7:00pm
- Hockey - Regionals (TBD) 7:00pm
- 17 Hockey - Regionals (TBD) 7:00pm
- 18 Hockey - Regionals (TBD) 7:00pm
- BBB - Medford (A) 7:15pm
- GBB - Medford (H) 7:15pm
- 19 Gymnastics - GNC Meet (A - Antigo) 10:00am
- Winter Carnival Dance 7:00pm-11:00pm
- 22 Hockey - Sectionals (TBD) 7:00pm
- 24 BBB - Lakeland (H) 7:15pm
- 25 Hockey - Sectionals (TBD) 7:00pm
- 26 District Solo & Ensemble - Wausau East HS 8:00am-3:00pm
- Hockey - Sectionals (TBD) 7:00pm

For a complete list of activities and events, visit mosineeschools.org.



Community Outreach Classes

To register, contact: Michelle Pozorski at mpozorski@mosineeschools.org

CLASS	BEGINS	DAY	TIME	SESSIONS	LOC.
Dental Homecare 101	2-3	Thurs	6:00-7:00	4*	MHS IMC Conf. Rm.
Gum Disease: Do I Have It?	2-10	Thurs	6:00-7:00	1	MHS IMC Conf. Rm.
Cavities: Don't Wait for Pain	2-17	Thurs	6:00-7:00	1	MHS IMC Conf. Rm.
Custom Creations Jewelry	2-17	Thurs	6:00-8:00	1	MHS IMC
Acrylic Painting - Springtime Theme	2-22	Tues	5:30-7:30	1	MHS 406
Social Media: Staying Connected	2-23	Wed	6:00-8:00	1	MMS 180
DIY Wooden Sign Painting	2-24	Thurs	6:00-9:00	1	Olive Branch Sign Co.
Zumba	2-28	Mon	6:00-7:00	6	MES Gym

*Class will not meet Feb. 24 or Mar. 3

JX Gives Back to School Food Pantry



Tracy Jonas, Wausau Operations Manager, proudly presented a **JX Gives Back Family Foundation** check to **Feeding Our Future Food Pantry!** The food pantry is run out of the Mosinee Middle School. It feeds 80+ kids and extends to the high school and elementary school. The funds will be used to purchase healthy snacks for students.

Pictured above (l to r): Natasha James, MMS "Feeding Our Future" Co-Director Rocky Beinemann, Kyle Miller, Co-Director Dana Kamke, and JX Gives Back Rep. Tracy Jonas display the donation check.

The Mosinee Link is published monthly to promote communication and cooperation between district residents and the schools.

Link Coordinator: Heather Bartnik

Editorial Board: Toni Bagby, Jenny Bruening, Kim Fandrey, Anna Kaiser, Dana Kamke, Ann Kedrowski, David Muñoz, Mari Jo Nechuta

Reporters: Administrators, Staff, and Students

Address comments and inquires to: Superintendent of Schools, Mosinee School District, 146001 State Highway 153, Mosinee, WI 54455, 715-693-2530

The Mosinee School District shall not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, color, national origin, ancestry, creed, religion, pregnancy, marital or parental status, sexual orientation, handicap or physical, mental, emotional or learning disability or any other characteristic protected by state or federal law in the educational programs or activities which it operates or in employment practices. All inquiries or complaints regarding discrimination under Title II, Title IX, Section 504 or other state or federal law shall be directed to Robert Way, Director of Instructional Programs, Mosinee School District, 146001 State Highway 153, Mosinee, WI 54455 at 715-693-2530.

Mosinee School District
146001 State Highway 153
Mosinee, Wisconsin 54455
www.mosineeschools.org

Find us on

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit No. 19
Mosinee, Wisconsin 54455

**LOCAL POSTAL PATRON
ECRWSS**