



PIPESTONE AREA SCHOOLS

District No. 2689

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Elementary School Board Report Jennifer Moravetz, Elementary Principal

Monday, September 28, 2026

A Bright Start to the School Year

What an incredible start to the school year! Our halls are filled with energy and excitement. It has been wonderful to see students returning with smiles, reconnecting with friends, building new relationships, and jumping into the joy of learning.

There is so much to celebrate at Pipestone Elementary! Our elementary staff have worked incredibly hard to create classrooms and learning spaces where students feel safe, loved, welcomed, challenged, supported, and excited to grow. I am incredibly proud of our amazing team and the passion, teamwork, and care they bring to our students each and every day.

This year, we are embracing our “Be the Light” theme. A reminder that each of us has the opportunity to make a difference. A kind word, a helping hand, a welcoming smile, a moment of encouragement, or simply being there for someone can brighten another person’s day. We all have a light to share, and together, we can make our school shine!

As we move through the year, our goal remains clear: to create a school community where every student and staff member feels safe, loved, valued, supported, heard, and included. When we take care of one another, build strong relationships, and work together, we create something truly special.

We are off to a bright beginning and I am looking forward to the amazing year ahead!

- **First Day of School Assemblies**

- We kicked off the school year with Flex Area Assemblies, welcoming students back and setting a positive tone for the year ahead. We introduced our Be the Light theme, welcomed new staff members, and introduced our Dean of Students, Counselor, and Social Worker.
- Students also reviewed Arrow Way expectations, Safe and Secure procedures, and important changes for the new school year. It was an exciting start focused on connection, belonging, and creating a positive school community.

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- **Staff Meeting - POG Communicator - Wednesday, September 9th**

- Our first elementary staff meeting of the year focused on our POG attribute of Communicator. Staff participated in three engaging activities designed to explore the different components of effective communication.
- The meeting was highly interactive and provided staff with opportunities to reflect on how we communicate with students and one another. I also introduced our grade-level communication rubrics, which outline what effective communication looks like at each grade level.
- Communication will be an intentional schoolwide focus for the next seven weeks, giving students and staff time to practice, model, and strengthen this important skill across all areas of the school.

- **Fire Drill**

- On Wednesday, September 9th, we held our first fire drill of the school year. Students and staff practiced our safety procedures and demonstrated a good understanding of what to do in case of a fire.

- **Patriot Day: Remembering September 11th**

- On Patriot Day, our elementary school community came together at the flagpole to commemorate the 25th anniversary of September 11, 2001. Students learned about the significance of Patriot Day, the meaning behind the colors of our American flag, and why the flag is sometimes flown at half-staff as a sign of remembrance and respect.
- Together, as a school community, we stood united and recited the Pledge of Allegiance, taking a moment to reflect on the importance of courage, service, unity, and caring for one another.
- This was a meaningful opportunity for our students to learn about an important moment in our nation's history while honoring the lives and sacrifices of those who were impacted. Most importantly, we were reminded that even in difficult moments, we can come together, support one another, and Be the Light.

- **Environmental Fair**

- On Tuesday, September 22, our 5th-grade students had the opportunity to attend the Environmental Fair! Students explored hands-on activities, learned about our environment, and expanded their understanding of how we can all help care for the world around us.

- **Bus Safety Training**

- On Tuesday and Wednesday, September 22nd and 23rd, Ludolph Bussing provided bus safety training for all students in PreK–5th grade.

- **GrandPerson Day**

- GrandPerson Day is Friday, September 25th. Grandperson Day was a special celebration for our 5th-grade students and the grandparent or special adult they invited. Guests joined students at school for an hour of fun, meaningful activities, and shared learning. It was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate special relationships, create lasting memories, and enjoy time together!

- **Back to School Bash**

- On Wednesday, September 30th, from 4:00–7:00 PM at Vest View Park the Elementary Booster Club will be putting on a fun community event for our elementary students. Everyone is welcome!

- **September Character Focus: Respect**

- Our September character trait is Respect, which connects with our focus on POG Communicator. Students are learning that respect is demonstrated through our words, actions, listening, and how we treat others.
- On Wednesday, September 30th, we will gather for our Arrow Way Assembly to recognize one student from each classroom who has demonstrated Respect. We look forward to celebrating these students and recognizing how they are the Light in our school community!

- **School Improvement Plan**

- The elementary school will prioritize two key areas of focus: one academic goal and one non-academic goal.

- **Academic Goal:**

- I will be working with Lisa to analyze our DIBELS and CAPTI assessment data. I will look closely at the data results to identify trends, areas of strength, and areas for growth. Based on this data, I will develop an academic goal focused on strengthening student achievement and Tier 1 instruction. I will share this goal in my October school board meeting notes.

- **Non-Academic Goal:** By the end of the 2026 - 2027 school year, students in Junior Kindergarten through 5th grade will achieve an attendance rate of 94.5% or higher.

- At the end of the 2025–2026 school year, our overall elementary attendance rate was 94%.

- **Thank You to Our School Board**

- Happy School Board Appreciation Month! On behalf of our entire school community, we extend our heartfelt appreciation to our School Board members for your dedication and service. Your leadership, vision, and commitment help create opportunities for our students to learn, grow, and thrive.