



PIPESTONE AREA SCHOOLS

District No. 2689

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MS/HS School Board Report

October 2026

The implementation of our cell phone ban continues to go very well. Students have become increasingly consistent and responsible in turning in their phones each morning, and they have been respectful of this expectation. While I anticipated that adjusting to this new policy might present some challenges, students have adapted remarkably well.

Arrow Way: Portrait of a Graduate

We recently held our Arrow Way *Communicator* recognition ceremonies for students in grades 6–12. Teachers selected students who demonstrated the Portrait of a Graduate attribute of Communicator, recognizing those who effectively express ideas, listen to others, and engage in meaningful communication.

We have now transitioned to our next focus area, Collaborator. Teachers are being intentional about incorporating this attribute into their classrooms and learning activities. Our goal is to help students strengthen their ability to work effectively with others, contribute to group efforts, and develop the collaboration skills necessary for success beyond the classroom.

Fine Arts and Student Achievement

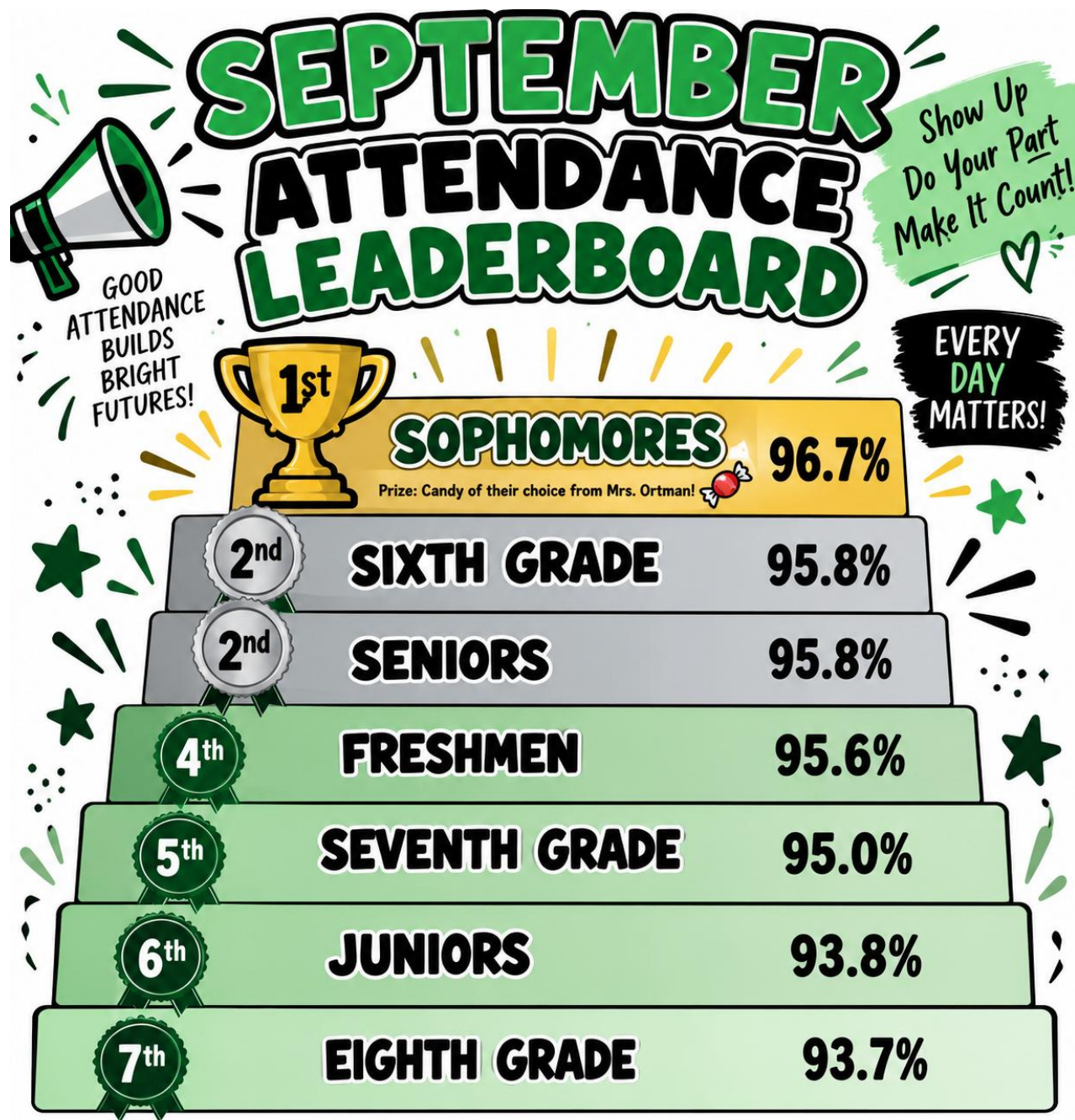
Our first concert of the season was recently held, and it was an outstanding performance. I am extremely proud of Mr. Strawn and the middle school students who performed. Their preparation, dedication, and musical talent were evident throughout the concert.

Academic Goals: Vocabulary Proficiency

We continue to focus on improving vocabulary proficiency as measured by the CAPTI assessment. Our goals for this school year are as follows:

- Middle School (Grades 6–8): Increase vocabulary proficiency from 44% to 50%.
- High School (Grades 9–12): Increase vocabulary proficiency from 80% to 85%.

These goals will guide our instructional efforts as teachers continue to incorporate intentional vocabulary instruction across content areas. We will monitor student progress and use assessment data to inform instructional decisions, identify areas of need, and support improved academic outcomes.



We have placed a strong emphasis on recognizing and celebrating attendance successes across the middle and high schools. Each month, we will introduce a friendly attendance competition among grade levels and share the results to highlight those at the top of the leaderboard. Our goal is to encourage consistent attendance, recognize student efforts, and reinforce the importance of being at school every day.

Moving forward, our attendance goal for the year is to maintain an attendance percentage of 95% monthly (across all grade levels).