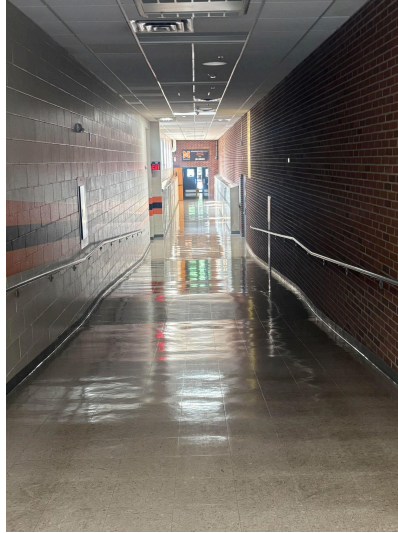




Menahga Principal's Board Report

Steph Mercil and Michelle Koch
August, 2026

Elementary School Update



Enrollment/Online Registration: The secretaries have been working hard this summer and as they've come back to work through the new Online Registration process. Thanks to families for being flexible and accommodating to help with this transition and getting correct information. Teacher letters were mailed out regardless of enrollment completion. Plans to continue supporting families to complete the online enrollment throughout the year.

Numbers registered online thus far as of 08/10:

PreK- 0 K-0 1- 11, 2- 12, 3- 10, 4- 17, 5-14, 6-11

Staffing: Some movement to fill positions and provide best education for students!

Law Seminar: August 3rd the admin team and team of admin in training, attending a law seminar in NYM put on by Pemberton Law. Focus on Investigations, Discipline, and best practices

Meetings, Meetings, Meetings:

Special ed teachers are coming in to create para schedules. This is a time consuming task and shows the testament of the team to provide the best experience and education for students. I met with our Freshwater specialists last week and attended the Principals Meeting for Freshwater.

Meetings with Julie U, director of Headstart, and Lisa Wick, preschool coordinator this week.

Meeting with Sourcewell Strategy Partner, Andrea Rusk for how Sourcewell can support our teachers and staff this year.

Schedules: Making some final adjustments and decisions on reading, math intervention times. Will resend the master schedule to teachers this week.

Back to School Planning/Workshop: [Aug 31-Sept 2 Back to School Workshop Schedule](#)

MES Handbook: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1QJoWbid8Pg0dS8QZebFUDM-DWLvldJH3/edit>

Important Dates:

ESJ - Aug 17-20

Aug 31-Sept 2 - Back to School workshop

Back to School Open House: Sept. 2nd 5:30-7:30 pm

7th Grade Orientation Sept 2nd 7:00-7:30 pm

Sept 8 - First Day of School 2026-2027

Oct 5-9 Homecoming

Oct 15-16 No School (EM Break)

Oct 18 Staff Development (no School)

Nov 12 Conferences (no School)

Nov 13 Staff Development (no School)

High School Update!

Enrollment/Online Registration: Thank you so much to the district office team for getting our Online Registration up and running! We are so thankful for the support this gives Lindsay and Susie...and for the clean data that will be updated!

Law Seminar: August 3rd the admin team and team of admin in training, attending a law seminar in NYM put on by Pemberton Law. Focus on Investigations, Discipline, and best practices

Custodians: Thank you Terry and crew for the amazing job you do everyday to keep our facilities running smoothly and looking amazing!

1st Semester Scheduling: Baileigh has been working diligently to have all of the first semester scheduled and ready to roll. We are so excited for the opportunities students and staff will have! We have provided several block schedule courses and team teaching opportunities. Second semester planning and scheduling is already underway.

An Unforgettable Washington, D.C. Experience

This summer, I had the privilege of traveling to Washington, D.C., with eight Menahga students and four parents through World Classrooms, and it was truly an unforgettable experience.

During our trip, we explored some of our nation's most historic landmarks, including the National Mall and Monuments, Mount Vernon, the U.S. Capitol, and the charming streets of Old Town Alexandria. Each stop brought history to life and gave our students a deeper appreciation for our country's heritage, leadership, and civic responsibility.

What made the experience even more meaningful was watching our students learn, ask questions, and share these moments with one another and their families. We were excited to travel with students, parents and staff from Fosston and Win-E-Mac. The memories and connections made during the trip will last a lifetime.

I cannot say enough about the outstanding work of World Classrooms. Their leadership, organization, and attention to detail were second to none. Every aspect of the trip was thoughtfully planned, allowing our students and families to focus on learning, exploring, and enjoying the experience.

After seeing firsthand the impact this program has on students, I look forward to promoting World Classrooms and encouraging more Menahga students and families to take advantage of this incredible opportunity in the future. It was an amazing journey, and I can't wait to see even more Braves experience our nation's capital.

Students: Tucker Gilster, Addie Haataja, Aliah Haataja, Lucas Litzau, Oliver Manlove, Carter Preston, Tristan Sibernagel, Leo Schermeister. Parents: Tamara Gilster, Lynn Litzau, Kenny and Renee Manlove.



District PBIS Team: On August 11, our district PBIS leadership team will participate in the PBIS Sustainability Cohort: Check-In and Tune Up. This professional learning opportunity will help our team evaluate current PBIS practices, celebrate successes, and identify next steps to strengthen our district-wide systems. Our continued investment in PBIS reflects our commitment to creating safe, positive, and supportive learning environments where all students and staff can thrive.

Till360: We are also excited to partner with **Till360** to support our students, staff, and school community. This partnership will help us continue building a positive school culture and climate where everyone feels connected, supported, and empowered to succeed. Curt Slater will have a welcome back message for our staff

on Monday the 31st. We will work to schedule more Professional Learning time with staff and students during the school year!

7-12 Advisory Time: Beginning second quarter, we will introduce our new Wednesday Advisory (Brave Connections) program. This dedicated time will allow students to build stronger relationships with staff, receive academic support, explore career and college readiness opportunities, strengthen social-emotional skills, and participate in activities that help every student succeed both in and out of the classroom. We have worked to arrange our advisory time to have the greatest impact on students with the least impact on the daily schedule and routines.

Staff/Student AI Training: As technology continues to evolve, Menahga is committed to helping students become responsible and ethical users of artificial intelligence (AI). Through our partnership with Gruvy Education, both students and staff will receive ongoing learning and support to use AI effectively, responsibly, and with academic integrity. By learning alongside one another, we are building the skills needed to prepare students for the future while enhancing teaching and learning in every classroom. William will be meeting with staff on Nov. 13th, and Luke will meet with students in 5-12 during morning assemblies the next week!

 Workable Copy of Grades 7-12: 2026-2027 Student Handbook .docx

Menahga Principal Goals for 2026-2027 that were developed at the June Leadership retreat.

Goal 1: Focus on Climate and Culture at Menahga Public Schools

Our school will strengthen a positive, inclusive, and collaborative culture by increasing students' and staff members' sense of belonging, safety, and engagement, as measured by annual climate survey results.

- Partner with Till360 for a Back to School message and follow up sessions with staff and students.
- Administer a climate survey to staff
- Re commit to PBIS practices

Goal 2: Strengthen Literacy and Academic Achievement

Ensure all students achieve at high levels by implementing evidence-based reading instruction aligned with the Minnesota READ Act, closing racial and economic achievement gaps, and building staff capacity in differentiated instruction to support the diverse needs of learners.

- Elementary will be participation in curricular pilots, collecting data, and collaborating to determine the best choice of ELA resources for our students K-6.
- District teams will resume Professional Learning Communities with a new name, Brave Learning Teams(BLT's).

Goal 3: Expand Career Pathways and Authentic Learning Opportunities

Increase student engagement and readiness for college, career, and life by developing cross-curricular, career-connected learning experiences; expanding community and business partnerships; and providing authentic, hands-on opportunities such as senior capstone projects and internships.

Goal 4: Support the Whole Child and Invest in Staff Development

Provide comprehensive supports that meet the academic, social, emotional, and behavioral needs of all students, while ensuring every student has a positive connection with a caring adult. Strengthen staff recruitment, professional development, and training—including emerging tools such as AI—to sustain a future-focused and supportive learning environment.

- Follow up training is planned with William Grube for Nov 13th, and also plans for working with students.
- We are also excited to continue expanding our work with Artificial Intelligence through additional professional learning this fall. In November, we will welcome William Grube back to Menahga Public Schools for another day of AI training with our staff, building on the practical strategies and classroom applications introduced last year. In addition to staff learning, we are especially excited to offer student AI workshops on November 19. William will work with our 6th–8th grade students in the morning, followed by a session for our 9th–12th grade students. These workshops will help students better understand the responsible, ethical, and effective use of AI while preparing them with skills that are increasingly important in college, careers, and everyday life.

Projected Enrollment K-6 for 2026-2027 school year

Grade Level	# of Teachers	Estimated # of Students in each class
PreK	1 TBD part time Tues/Thurs	10
VPK	1	15-20
K	3, 2 full day 1 every other day	14 full day, 22 ½ day
1	4	19-21
2	3	21-22
3	4	19
4	4	18
5	4	18-20
6	3	22

Projected Menahga High School Enrollment for 2026-2027 school year

Grade Level	# of Teachers (NA)	Estimated # of Students
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7	7-8 Four Core/shared specialists/two special education/one interventionist	75
8		72
9	9-12 Eight Core/shared specialists and electives/two special education	74
10		74
11		89
12		62
eCHS	(numbers will vary)	25+
PSEO	(numbers will vary)	13-18

Respectfully submitted,

Steph Mercil and Michelle Koch