

Hello Maple River,

As the new school year was approaching, we received the news that Maple River students are again among the top on the list for academic achievement on the MCA tests. This great news has propelled us into another school year, confirming what we already know: we have a remarkable group of students and a strong staff to challenge and support them. While tests scores don't tell the whole story of a school district, they are a good indicator of what is happening in the classroom, and we are extremely proud of what our students achieve. Thank you to the students, families, and staff for working together to create an environment where our children can thrive.

This year, we welcome nine new staff to our school district:

- Trenton Edwards, Art
- Mandy Brown, HS Language Arts
- Derek Bratsch, HS Math
- Collin Neinhaus, MS Science
- Amy LaRoche, Elementary Special Education
- Brenden Babcock, MS/HS Special Education
- Abby Chappuis, Elementary Special Education
- Lisa Mershon, MS/HS Special Education
- Aaron Dwyer, 4th Grade Teacher

These new faces, along with our returning staff, are already making the 2018-19 school year a great adventure.

I'd like to take this opportunity to highlight a change we made last year in the secondary school schedule that is showing significant reward. We moved from the semester calendar to a trimester calendar, which enabled us to bring back 22 electives in our course offerings. We added classes to the middle school that include Agriculture, Spanish, Business, and Art, which haven't been available at that level for over 15 years. We added high school courses including Forensic Science, Sports Medicine, Business Ownership, Foods, and Photography. We also added a STEAM class to our elementary program (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math).

All of this happened without increasing our total budget. We completely overhauled our 6-12 schedule, which was an immense amount of work for our staff, not to mention their flexibility to change lesson plans and redesign their daily schedules to fit the new trimester system. Thank you to all of the staff for being willing to put in this extra effort. It has been well worth it and highly beneficial to our students.

Great things are happening at Maple River and we're looking forward to another year of learning, achieving, and making memories. It's always a great day to be an EAGLE!

#WeAre