



Milaca Tracks & Tales

500 Hwy 23 West, Milaca MN 56353

IMPORTANT BACK TO SCHOOL DATES

Wednesday, August 29
OPEN HOUSE & PICTURE DAY
1:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, September 4
First Day of Class
for Grades 3 - 12

Thursday, September 6
First Day of Class for
Kindergarten - Grade 2

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I am excited to welcome you back to another great school year! We have had a GREAT summer! Many kids from around the community took advantage of the free breakfasts and lunches, as well as the many Community Education classes and the other activities offered. We will keep the positive momentum moving into the school year.

Over the summer, we spent time reviewing the cultural aspects of our schools ranging from student behaviors to school safety. Throughout all the work and planning, we have kept *Instilling Pride and Achieving Excellence* at the core of what we do!

November 6 will also bring forth an additional important election for Milaca School's leadership. Four board member terms will expire at the end of the year. The Milaca community will have to vote to fill these vacancies. There are eight members of our community running for these positions: Phil Herwig, Blayne Parkos, Sara A. (Herr) Larsen, Rachelle A. Nelson, Todd C. Quaintance, Jere Day, and Genevieve Plumadore. We are glad to have so many people interested in such an important role in our community!

After last spring's bond referendum question failed, the board has been working hard to determine the next steps in our facility needs. Additionally, they are adding two questions to the November ballot that includes an operating levy question and a bond referendum question focusing on capital maintenance needs (including roofing, pool, windows, and security). An operating levy would provide revenue to help with general operating costs incurred through increases in our expenditures, as well as offset our losses due to declining enrollment.

We are excited about what is in store for this year. Stay tuned! Everything we accomplish can only be done with your support! I invite you to visit me throughout the year. GO WOLVES! ~ Tim Truebenbach, Superintendent



Thank you to our food service staff for providing the delicious meals for the summer food program!



We hope everyone had a fantastic summer. We have a number of things to look forward to as we begin the 2018-2019 school year.

We have a few new staff members joining the high school this year. We would like to welcome Jodie Gladis (School Counselor), John Hodson (Physical Education, Health), Julie Herrity-Weidenborner (Family and Consumer Science), John Krzyska (Business), and Joyce Geving (Special Education). Most of these teachers come to Milaca with teaching experience and we look forward to them joining our team.

The school year kicks off with Open House on Wednesday, August 29 from 1:00 - 7:00 p.m. We encourage families to attend Open House to meet teachers, attend information sessions, put money in lunch accounts, get school pictures taken, and a number of other important tasks. This year, we are able to accept debit and credit cards at Open House for your convenience.

Sports have started fall practices, and their season opening games are just around the corner. Homecoming week is September 24-28, so be ready for an exciting start to the school year! Please enjoy your last few days of summer break! We will see you at Open House on August 29, and the first day of school on September 4. ~ Damian Patnode, High School Principal

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We are ready for the 2018-19 school year! We look forward to visiting with students and families at Open House on Wednesday, August 29.

Earlier this month I read a message from Pastor Tim Bauer regarding how people communicate. He shared a conversation he had heard. Pastor Bauer wrote, *"The presenter said that the best measurement of health was not your cholesterol, blood pressure, triglyceride or heart rate number. The best measurement of health was the number of conversations you have with people on a daily basis. I wouldn't entirely rely on that, but the point is communication, relationships, engaging with others face to face and voice to voice."*

The message struck a nerve...in a good way. Elementary administration began discussing the 2018-19 school year in February. Very early in the conversation we concluded our focus would be school climate and culture. This is not to dismiss the ongoing work we do with effective curriculum and instruction, but we know supporting a healthy school environment is the foundation for academic, social, and emotional growth.

How do we continue to develop our school climate and culture? Through meaningful conversations and developing relationships! Conversations with students, families, the community, and each other. Conversations that are face-to-face or voice-to-voice when possible...understanding email and text messages have a place.

We are a proud school and have reason to be. Student achievement has steadily increased over the last several years. Visitors comment about the positive atmosphere, caring adults working with our students, and community pride. Our students work hard. Our families are involved. Our community is supportive. We have reason to be proud and achieve excellence!

We will continue to provide students a top-notch education. We will continue to look for ways to be engaged in, and graciously accept support from, the community. We will take time to have conversations that support the growth of each child. After all, it starts with relationships. ~ Steve Voshell, Elementary Principal



Milaca Public Schools - Instilling Pride and Achieving Excellence

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