



September 1, 2011

**From the Desk of Bob Newsum,  
Superintendent**

Greetings:

We have gotten off to an outstanding start of the 2011-2012 school year, with great enthusiasm and excellent courtesy and respect demonstrated throughout the building. Preliminary enrollment numbers are very encouraging, as our current number of kindergarten students exceeds the number of seniors who graduated last May by more than ten and the number of families and students who are new to our district exceeds the number of families and students who moved from Martensdale-St Marys to attend school elsewhere by a significant number. We are cautiously optimistic, but won't know the actual enrollment for 2011-2012 until the official October 1 'count day'.

As this will be the last formal district communication to you before the September 13, 2011 school board election date, I want to remind and encourage you to exercise your civic duty and responsibility and VOTE for your district board member representatives. Mrs. Nicole Bunch, current school board president, is running for District 5 re-election and Mr. Dean Furness is running for the expired District 3 board member seat, currently held by Mr. Scott Anderson, who has decided not to run for another term.

For the past three months, I have been encouraging you to help us improve our efforts to provide timely and meaningful information to you. This will be my final request for those of you who have not already done so to complete the short communications survey that the district communications committee has developed. You will be able to access and complete the communications survey electronically as a **link** on the Martensdale-St. Marys Community School District website [www.mstm.us](http://www.mstm.us). If you would rather complete a paper copy of the survey, they are available in any of the district administrative offices. Your completed survey should be returned to the administrative offices and we'd like to have the completed surveys by the end of September, so we can tabulate the results and share the findings with you later this fall. Surveys will also be available at early fall school activities, such as football and volleyball games.

Thank you, in advance, for supporting your school district and completing your survey.

**From the Desk of Mr. Crozier,  
Secondary Principal**

From The Desk of Mr. Crozier

Welcome back to the 2011-2012 school year. The new school year provides an opportunity for a new start for all of us. Let commit to making this year the best ever. We are starting the second year of our 1:1 laptop program. This program was very successful last year and enhanced the ways our students learn. The new freshmen were excited to get their computers, and the sophomores, juniors, and seniors were excited to get their computers back. Social media continues to grow and be a part of our everyday society. It seems that everyone these days is on Facebook or tweets. I am learning how to use Twitter slowly but I am sure I will get the hang of it. Please make it a priority to talk to your children about the proper uses of these technology tools. We have included a unit in our advisory program about the proper and safe uses of social media. It is also covered in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade technology class. You can follow me on Twitter @umprozier for educational issues and things that are happening at our school.

We have 4 great additions to our staff. Please stop by and welcome these new teachers to our community.

New Staff Member Spotlight:



- **Marcy Roff - Science**
- **Lives in Norwalk**
- **Grew up in Des Moines**
- **Graduate of Simpson**
- **Married to Tom and has two children Nolan 8 and Logan 3**
- **Likes: Running, Lifting, Spending time with family, Music, Movies and Sports**



- **Beth Lund – English/LA**
- **Lives in West Des Moines**
- **Grew up in Aurora, IL**
- **Graduate of Wm Penn and Drake**
- **Is engaged to Michael Grafft and has a dog (Sugar) and cat (Asian)**
- **Likes: Theater, Snorkeling, Reading and Gardening**



- **Craig Huegel – At-Risk/Activities Director**
- **Lives in Ankeny**
- **Grew up in Ionia, Iowa**
- **Graduate of UNI & Drake**
- **Married to Jen and has two children Andrew 4 and Kerrigan 5 weeks**
- **Likes: Sports, Reading and Being outdoors**



- **Adam Hansen – Math**
- **Lives in West Des Moines**
- **Grew up in Indianola**
- **Graduate of Drake**
- **Likes: Traveling, Biking, Skiing, Reading and Hiking**

I will be putting together the Parent Advisory Committee for the 2011-2012 school year. If you are interested in serving on this committee please notify me. It is open to any and all parents of the district. We will discuss issues and concerns for our school and try to come up with solutions to improve the education of our secondary students. Dates and times for meetings will be set soon.

I am looking forward to another great year at Martensdale-St. Marys. Please call me at (641) 764-2486 if you have questions regarding your child's educational experience.

Michael R. Crozier  
 Secondary Principal  
[mike\\_crozier@mstm.us](mailto:mike_crozier@mstm.us)

**From the Desk of Mrs. Clark,**  
**Music Dept.**

High School Chorus and High School Band have started using [musictheory.net](http://musictheory.net) as a resource in the classroom. High school music students are using their laptops to expand their musical knowledge. This will be a great tool because students can access it anywhere and at any time. Music Boosters will be meeting Tuesday, September 13 at 6:30 in the Music room. Please come and support all the music students at MStM.

**From the Desk of Mr. Huegel,**  
**Athletic Director / At-Risk**

Hello! I am excited to join the staff at MStM as your at-risk coordinator and activities/athletics director. It is a great time to be a Blue Devil, and I feel fortunate to be a part of the efforts of our student-athletes and coaches. The past summer has been incredibly successful (softball team going to state with a 3<sup>rd</sup> place finish, and the baseball team winning back to back titles with an 87 game winning streak), and we hope to continue that momentum into the fall. If you were not able to attend our home football opener last Friday, August 26<sup>th</sup>, you missed a great night of Class A football. The players, officials, coaches and spectators all displayed great sportsmanship as they battled for a win.

Sportsmanship is worth mentioning in greater detail. Martensdale-St. Marys will take great pride in competing, tenaciously but fairly and within the rules and spirit of the game. A sportsmanship meeting was held on August 22<sup>nd</sup> to discuss expectations, which were outlined as:

1. Be Loud! There is nothing better than when a home crowd gets fired up and supports their team.
2. Be Positive!!
3. Cheer for your team only... (not at officials, opponents, etc.).

One of the great things about last Friday's football game, other than the result, was how both teams gave a winning effort. On one play, a MStM player was tackled hard after a short gain. Both players immediately popped up, and gave each other a pat on the helmet, appreciating the play of each other. They then both hustled back to their huddles. A great lesson for all of us who enjoy high school activities to remember!

I look forward to a great year of activities at Martensdale-St. Marys. Activity schedules for football, volleyball and cross country are posted on the website at <http://www.mstm.us>. Our students will represent the community well, and we hope to see you there. I look forward to meeting you, and my contact information is on the website. If you have not purchased your season activity pass, they are still available in the high school office.

Also, you can "follow" us on Twitter at: MSTM\_BlueDevils

Go Blue Devils!



**From the Desk of Mr. Folkerts,**  
**Guidance Counselor**

**National ACT Testing Dates for 2011-2012**

<b>Test Date</b>	<b>Registration Deadline</b>	<b>(Late Fee Required)</b>
9-10-11	8-12-11	August 13 – 26, 2011
10-22-11	9-16-11	September 17 – 30, 2011
12-10-11	11-4-11	November 5 – 18, 2011
2-11-12	1-13-12	January 14 – 20, 2012
4-14-12	3-9-12	March 10 – 23, 2012
6-9-12	5-4-12	May 5 – 18, 2012

**Scholarships**

Scholarship information is available in the Counseling office for any senior interested in scholarship assistance for college. Talk to the guidance secretary, Mrs. Gegner or the counselor for more information.

**SEPTEMBER:**

1. Register for fall ACT test, if you are planning to go to a four year university in the fall of 2012.
2. Make sure you meet the admissions requirements of the college that you are interested in. Change your schedule in the counseling office if you need to take extra courses.
3. Double check college admissions deadlines.
4. Start the process of getting recommendation letters from teachers and/or people who know you.
5. Search for scholarships online and review the scholarship notebook.
6. If planning on playing sports in college, be sure you register ASAP with the NCAA Clearinghouse at [www.ncaaclearinghouse.net](http://www.ncaaclearinghouse.net)

**OCTOBER:**

1. Make final decisions on possible colleges.
2. Complete college applications, paying close attention to early admission deadlines.
3. Request teacher and/or counselor recommendations if needed.
4. Request transcripts from the counseling office as needed.
5. Attend college sponsored campus visit programs.
6. Search for scholarships online and through the scholarship notebook.
7. Take ACT or ACT tests. Make sure that the official scores are sent by the testing company to the colleges or universities that have made your final list of schools.
8. Register with the Selective Service if you are a male and 18 years old.

**Junior Year Responsibilities**

1. Attend College Night....October 5<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30pm in the Media Center.
2. Take the PSAT/NMSQT on October 12<sup>th</sup>.
3. Register for the spring SAT or ACT.
4. Take Advance Placement exams (if eligible) in May.
5. Review college options, requirements, and deadlines for admission, housing, financial aid, and scholarships to begin preparing to narrow college choices. Pay close attention to admission deadlines.
6. Visit college campuses on interest, if possible.
7. Register with NCAA Clearinghouse if you plan on being a college student athlete for Division I or II schools. Registration can be completed online at [www.ncaaclearinghouse.net](http://www.ncaaclearinghouse.net)

**From the Desk of Mr. Moser,**  
**Curriculum Director / English Dept.**

It doesn't seem that long ago that I was teaching my classes for the very first time to a group of eager learners in my first classroom at MStM (which is now the ICN room). Twelve years later, I find myself in a room across the hall from the ICN room, ready to begin working with another group of eager learners. A lot has changed for me in those twelve years (parenthood, a Masters degree, new career aspirations, to name a few), and I am just as excited to begin this school year as I was when I first started here.

To begin the year, students in each class work together to create classroom norms that will serve as the rules and expectations for the year. Then students complete a learning styles inventory online. This is done in an effort to foster collaboration between the students – as well as the instructor – in building a high-functioning and productive classroom. High expectations and knowledge of learning preferences will increase the effectiveness of all we do in our work.

All students in my classes will be assessed using a standards-based grading process. Each class has a separate set of skills and competencies that will serve as the learning objectives for each assignment, exam, and project. The standards used come directly from the Common Core State Standards, which has been mandated for use in all high school classrooms for the 2012-2013 school year. The reason for this process is to provide more usable data on progress and performance in key areas (reading comprehension, critical thinking, analysis, and writing) so as to maximize every student's access to appropriately challenging and enriching material. The standards and the grading criteria can be viewed on my course Web site landing page (<http://mstmhsla.pbworks.com>).

This fall semester I will be facilitating English II, American Ideas, Composition, and Literacy Enrichment in classroom. In addition to the several dozen students learning in the traditional classroom environment, there are a few dozen students taking various courses in an independent study format. This flexible approach to instruction ensures all students have equitable access to the curriculum while being

able to pursue learning opportunities in other venues (college courses and school-to-work, for example) as well as overcoming the complexities of our schedule. In all classes students will work with a variety of technology tools to enhance and demonstrate their learning. Some of the new technology components include Twitter, EdModo, GoogleDocs, and others, which can be found on the course Web site landing page listed above.

The means by which students learn may have changed since we were in high school, but the importance of learning has not. Please visit the course Web sites, follow me on Twitter, email or call me with questions or concerns, and stop by the classroom any time. As I tell my students, "My door is always open." I am looking forward to this year and the opportunities it holds for the students at MStM.

-Josh Moser

Email: [josh\\_moser@mstm.us](mailto:josh_moser@mstm.us)

Twitter: @Blammo33

641-764-2486 x 210

<http://mstmhsla.pbworks.com>

### **From Community Member Jolene Gehringer:**

*I would like to thank the 2011 inductees of the MStM National Honor Society for bringing me a fabulous meal with all the trimmings! A group of about 8 high school students who were recently sworn in as members were very gracious the first part of June and brought a fabulous meal into my home. I was diagnosed with Breast Cancer in November and completed Chemo Therapy the end of May and underwent surgery the middle of June. The meal could not have come at a better time! The group that came to my home was very thoughtful, kind and most of all respectful.*

*This group of OUTSTANDING kids and this awesome organization needs to be recognized. The NHS is an organization that gets VERY little appreciation and recognition. I would like to see that change! The next time you see a member of the NHS please thank them for all the GREAT things they do for individuals and, most importantly, what they do to make their community and their school a better place! I am very grateful to all of them!*

*Note: New inductees involved were Danielle Broadbent, Kayla DePauw, Kelsey DePauw, Katrina DeVore, Troy Harding, Cody Harvey, Hannah Hill, Carli Kenyon, Megan Krumme, Marshall Lynch, Courtney Scovel, and Abby Wetzler.*



### **From the Desk of Mrs. Sowder, Yearbook Advisor**

SENIORS/PARENTS of SENIORS:

Schedule your senior photo session with your photographer as soon as possible. Typically, it takes about four to six weeks between the sitting and the delivery of the printed photos, so schedule now.

Submit two vertical photos (can be same pose) for the senior section of the yearbook by December 21, 2011 to yearbook advisor Amy Sowder in Room 110. Horizontal photos can't be edited to fit the space properly. Photos can be e-mailed to [amy\\_sowder@mstm.us](mailto:amy_sowder@mstm.us) in jpeg format.

Also, be looking through those archives for two great vertical baby or early childhood photos for the senior section as well. Baby pictures are due by December 2, 2011.

### **From the Desk of Mr. Wood, Elementary Principal**

**The Power of Family Dinners**

You can help your children avoid substance abuse simply by having dinner with them on a regular basis. By routinely sharing a meal with your children you are creating a time and place where you can show your interest in—and they can open up about—what's happening in their lives. And that's the start of something good.

The National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse (CASA) at Columbia University has conducted more than a decade of research on the positive influence of families having regular dinners together. The findings are consistent: The more often you have dinner with your kids, the less likely they are to smoke, drink, or use drugs. Not only that, but kids who have regular family dinners are also more likely to get better grades, have better relationships with their parents, and avoid friends who smoke, drink, or use drugs.

The research has shown that teens that have fewer than three family dinners a week are more than twice as likely to say they expect to experiment with drugs compared with teens that have dinner with their families from five to seven times a week.

**Time to Eat, Time to Talk**

Modern life is busy with parents and children going off in a dozen different directions. Family dinner can be the time and place where our lives intersect and when everyone can take a break from all the activity and interact. CASA and its Family Day project offer some guidelines on making family dinners successful.

**Start early and encourage participation.**

Establish a regular pattern of family dinners when your children are young and encourage your children to participate

in family meals by having them help create the menus and take part in preparing the meals.

**Shut out distractions and talk.** At the start of the meal, shut off distractions, including television and phones. Then during the meal, talk about such topics as what happened in each person's day, what's going on in school, the day's events at work, and current events from the news. Keep the conversations positive and supportive and make sure everyone gets a chance to talk.

**Establish routines.** To ensure meals together are a continuing part of family life, establish routines. Lighting candles might be a good way to signal the start of the meal, and telling a story can come at the end of a meal. After dinner, find ways to keep the conversation going by lingering over dessert or playing a board game together.

**Family Day**

CASA's Family Day—A Day to Eat Dinner with Your Children™ is a national movement to inform parents “that the engagement fostered during frequent family dinners is an effective tool to help keep America's kids substance free.” Family Day is celebrated on the fourth Monday in September. To learn more about CASA and Family Day, including tools and resources, visit [www.CASAFamilyDay.org](http://www.CASAFamilyDay.org).

**MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING**

**July 11, 2011**

The Board of Directors of the Martensdale-St. Marys Community School District met in regular session, pursuant to law, on July 11, 2011.

Members Present: President, Nicole Bunch; Scott Anderson, Wade Gibson, and Amy Harper; together with Superintendent Bob Newsum and Business Manager Jill Gavin.

Members Absent: Vice President, Dave Shutt

- I. Welcome Board President  
Bunch called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. and welcomed all guests.
- II. Consent Items
  - A. Approval of Minutes Board President
  - B. Approval of Agenda Board President
  - C. Approval of Bills and Secretary's Report Board President
  - D. Approval of Hot Lunch and Activity Reports Board PresidentHarper motioned to approve the consent items, seconded by Anderson. Roll call: 4 ayes.

III. Celebrations

The baseball team's winning streak is now 80-0 and ranked #1. Good luck boys! The softball team is now 34-0 and is ranked #2. Good luck girls! Mr. Newsum announced that the gym floor is done and it looks great!

IV. Public Comments

Delores Sweet, St. Charles, IA - Expressed concern about a student on the Honor Roll who only attended school for two weeks and baseball program. The Board thanked Ms. Sweet for her comments.

V. Old Business

A. Reports

1) Facilities Report – Facilities Meeting will be held on Thursday, July 14<sup>th</sup> at 4:00.

B. Presentations

4) Superintendent's Report  
Supt. Newsum

Mr. Newsum is in the process of renewing his administrative license for another five years and is required to complete two units of recertification credit. He completed the first unit of credit for a June 5/6 Heartland Area Education Agency workshop and is enrolled in a second course, scheduled for Monday, July 11, and Tuesday, July 12, in Ames.

Mrs. Harper, Mr. Anderson, and Mr. Newsum have provided regular updates regarding the work of the district communications committee throughout the second semester and shared information and graphics related to a proposed district logo, mascot, approved colors, and type fonts. Mr. Tom Ferin and Ms. Lisa Trom, members of the District Communications Committee attended the board meeting and made formal recommendations from the communications committee.

VI. New Business

A. Appoint Jill Gavin as Board Secretary/Business Manager Supt. Newsum

Anderson motioned to approve Jill Gavin as Board Secretary/Business Manager, seconded by Gibson. Roll call: 4 ayes.

B. Administer Oath of Office to Jill Gavin  
Supt. Newsum

President Bunch administered the oath of office to Jill Gavin

C. Designate Official Depositories

Supt. Newsum

Harper motioned to approve City State Bank in Norwalk and Martensdale as the official depository for up to \$1,000,000 for the 2011-2012 school year, seconded by Gibson. RC: 4 ayes.

D. Discuss/Approve Transfer of LOSST Funds

Supt. Newsum

Anderson motioned to approve the required monthly transfers to the Debt Sinking Fund for the 2009 Revenue Bond, seconded by Gibson. Roll call: 4 ayes.

E. Discuss/Approve Resolution Authorizing Inter Funds Loans

Supt. Newsum

Harper motioned to approve the resolution authorizing and directing the Board Treasurer and Chief Financial Officer to process inter fund loans between the General Fund, Activity Fund, Management Fund, PPEL Fund, Capital Projects Funds, Nutrition Fund, Trust Fund, and/or Agency Fund, not to exceed 35 days in duration, with all loans to bear interest at the rate established by Iowa Code section 74A.6(2) per annum, for the fiscal year July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012, seconded by Anderson. Roll call: 4 ayes.

F. Discuss/Approve Personnel Recommendations

Supt. Newsum

Harper motioned to approve Brian Sweet and Mike Miller as volunteer football coaches for the 2011 season and tabled the request for Chris Reindl until further information is provided, seconded by Gibson. Roll call: 4 ayes.

Anderson motioned to approve Melissa Jensen as the Assistant Volleyball Coach for the 2011 season and as a volunteer Assistant Girl's Basketball Coach, seconded by Harper. Roll call: 4 ayes.

G. Approve Open Enrollment Request

Supt. Newsum

Gibson motioned to approve the open enrollment in request for Jerett Crowell with the parents paying tuition to the district, seconded by Harper. Roll call: 4 ayes.

Gibson motioned to deny the open enrollment out request for Kimber Erce because the request

was submitted after the March 1 deadline seconded by Harper. Roll call: 4 ayes.

H. Approve 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading GASB 54

Supt. Newsum

Gibson motioned to approve the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading of GASB 54, seconded by Anderson. Roll call: 4 ayes.

I. Approve 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading Board Policy Series 1 – School District

Supt. Newsum

Harper motioned to approve the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading of the Policy Series 100 with the discussed changes, seconded by Anderson. Roll call: 4 ayes.

J. School Board Election Update

Supt. Newsum

Mr. Newsum announced the terms of service for Mrs. Nicole Bunch, current Board President, and Mr. Scott Anderson are due to expire in September, 2011. The date for the next school board member election has been set for Tuesday, September 13. There is currently some interest from district residents in both districts for the available positions.

K. Discuss/Approve Logo, Graphics, Colors and Fonts

Supt. Newsum

Mrs. Harper introduced Tom Ferin and Lisa Trom who presented to the Board the results from the District Communications Committee that have been meeting since January. They presented the new style guide that provides the primary graphic elements for our district's branding program. Consistent application and precise production of the logos will identify and reinforce public awareness of MSTM District and activities. The style guide includes the official colors and fonts, for the district, school and activities logos. The style guide also includes the acceptable ways of referring to the school, district or activity programs. The acceptable ways include Martensdale – St. Marys, MSTM, and MSTM. The style guide includes the approved school logos and activity logos and logo violations. The style guide will be available on the website for the community, clubs and vendors to refer to. The District Communications Committee will be meeting with the coaches, PTO, Athletic Boosters and Music Boosters in the near future to provide the guidelines to follow. There have been some concerns about the devil mascot that was created. It was determined that the committee would introduce the new devil mascot to the different organizations and wait to officially approve it next year. They also agreed to wait a year to get

all the logos and color to our attorney for copyright purposes.

Anderson motioned to approve introducing the new colors, fonts, logos and graphics to all staff, coaches, and organizations, and wait a year to move forward with copyrights, seconded by Gibson. Roll call: 4 ayes.

- L. Discuss/Approve Xirrus Wireless Quote  
Supt. Newsum

Gibson motioned to approve the Xirrus wireless quote for the elementary wing, seconded by Anderson. Roll call: 4 ayes.

- M. Discuss/Approve MStM Survey  
Supt. Newsum

Lisa Trom presented to the Board the MStM Survey that the District Communications Committee put together. They would like to put the survey on the website, in the quarterly newsletter, have it available during fall registration and at the first home volleyball and football games. Anderson motioned to approve the MStM survey with question #24 removed regarding personal income and reword question #26 regarding districts, seconded by Gibson. Roll call: 4 ayes.

- N. Confirm – Next Meeting Dates  
Supt. Newsum

08/03/10 – Agenda subcommittee by e-mail  
08/08/10 – 5:00 p.m. Board Meeting

APPROVED

  
Board President

  
Business Manager

## MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING July 11, 2011

The Board of Directors of the Martensdale-St. Marys Community School District met in special session, pursuant to law, on July 21, 2011 by conference call.

Members Present: Vice President, Dave Shutt; Wade Gibson and Amy Harper; together with Business Manager Jill Gavin.

Members Absent: President, Nicole Bunch and Scott Anderson

- I. Welcome Board President

Shutt called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

- II. Public Comments - None

- III. New Business

- A. Personnel Recommendation

Board President

Mrs. Gavin reviewed with the Board that they tabled a volunteer football coach position during the July 11 board meeting and requested additional information. Mrs. Gavin informed the board that she just received the back ground check back today and the family is living in the district. Harper motioned to approve Chris Reindl as the volunteer football coach seconded by Gibson. Roll call: 3 ayes.

- IV. Adjournment

Harper motioned to adjourn the meeting seconded by Gibson. Roll call: 3 ayes. Time: 12:10 p.m.

APPROVED

  
Board President

  
Business Manager

It is the policy of the Martensdale-St. Marys Community School District not to illegally discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, disability, religion, creed, age (for employment), marital status (for programs), sexual orientation, gender identity, and socioeconomic status (for programs) in its educational programs and its employment practices.

There is a grievance procedure for processing complaints of discrimination. If you have questions or a grievance related to this policy, please contact the district's Equity Coordinator.

MStM's Equity Coordinator is Mike Crozier, secondary principal. His address is MStM Community School, 390 Burlington, Martensdale, Iowa 50160. His phone number is 641-764-2686 and his email address is: [mike\\_crozier@mstm.us](mailto:mike_crozier@mstm.us)

*The Martensdale-St. Marys District Newsletter is published by the end of the preceding month.*

*The newsletter is available for pickup in the Superintendent's office and the Jiffy station located, Both are located in Martensdale.*

*You may also view it on the <http://www.mstm.us> website. Questions or concerns may be addressed to:*

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Martensdale-St. Marys  
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