

DISTRICT 821 NEWSLETTER
Menahga Public School
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Menahga, MN 56464

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Back-to-School Newsletter 2024-25

Menahga Public Schools



216 Aspen Avenue SE, PO Box 160, Menahga, MN 56464 218-564-4141 www.menahga.k12.mn.us



Welcome Back!

From the Desk of
Superintendent Jay Kjos

Dear Menahga Community,

Can you believe it? We're just a few weeks away from the start of the new school year, and I am beyond excited to see all of our awesome students again! Last year was pretty great, but I have a feeling that this year is going to be even better.

One area of focus for our school board and administrative team has been the issue of cellphone usage by students. Extensive research has shown that the negative impacts of excessive cellphone use outweigh the positive effects on students. In light of this, we have taken steps to strengthen our policy and rules regarding cellphone usage, which will be reflected in the updated student handbook. It is our belief that this will create a more conducive learning environment and promote healthier habits among our students. We will need to partner with parents in the implementation of these rules. Please take a minute to read the student handbook and go over this with your children.

Our dedicated staff is eagerly looking forward to serving our students and families in the upcoming academic year. Their commitment to providing quality education and support is impressive, and we are confident that our students will achieve at a high level!

Menahga School is excited to offer career pathways in various fields to our students. These pathways include Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources; Health and Human Services; Business and Technology; and Engineering, Arts and Trades. Through internships and real-life experiences, our students will gain valuable insights and skills in these industries. We are thrilled to have dedicated resources and staff to support these pathways. This year we will be kicking off these internships.

Personally, I feel honored to serve as the school superintendent in a community as special as Menahga. It is hard to believe that this is already the third time I am writing this letter. The support and engagement of our community for the school is second to none.

As we start up a new school year, let's work as a team in our community to create a positive and fun environment for our students. I have no doubt that we will have a great year.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership. I hope you have some great days to end your summer. - Jay Kjos, Superintendent



Menahga Public Schools

Belief Statement

We believe student success is a collaborative partnership between students, school, family, and community which is built upon strong relationships.

Core Values

Integrity, Respect, Relationships, Safety

Vision

To engage all learners on a lifelong path to success.

Mission

To build strong partnerships with stakeholders to ensure all learners succeed.

Back to School Open House

Wed, August 28th 3:45-5:45pm

First Day of School - Tuesday, Sept. 3rd

SCHOOL PICTURE DAY

Tuesday, Oct. 1st

Order forms will be available at the School Open House.

Caulfield Studio

Welcome Back To School



From the Desk of
**Elementary
Principal,
Lisa Parrish**

Dear Menahga Elementary Families,
Greetings and welcome to a brand new year of learning at Menahga Elementary School! My name is Lisa Parrish, and I am delighted to continue serving as your Elementary Principal for grades PreK-6 as I enter my second year in this role. I am very excited about the 2024-2025 school year and look forward to partnering with our families, staff, and students to make it a fantastic one. Our mission remains to provide a high-quality education for every child while building strong partnerships with our community to ensure the success of all learners.

Our dedicated custodial staff has spent the summer ensuring our school is ready to welcome our students. Every corner of the building has been meticulously cleaned and prepared, and it looks wonderful! We are fortunate to have such an outstanding team taking care of our facilities. Be sure to check out the new portraits in the high school hallways, which showcase all previous Menahga high school graduates.

This year, we are thrilled to introduce several new members to our elementary team. Mrs. Blomberg will join our first-grade team, Mrs. Leiran our second-grade team, Mrs. Haapala our fourth-grade team, and Mr. Luetgers and Mrs. Marsden will be part of our special education staff. Additionally, Mrs. Meyer will be teaching art on Mondays, and Mrs. Bayman will serve as our in-person district Speech and Language

Pathologist. I am confident that these new team members will significantly benefit our students.

Effective communication between school and home is crucial for a successful school year. Along with regular teacher newsletters and a quarterly Elementary newsletter, you can stay updated by visiting the Menahga Public School Facebook page where our district communications coordinator does a beautiful job highlighting all of the important work happening with students.

We aim to provide the best possible educational experiences for your child. If you have any concerns or would like to discuss your child(ren), please do not hesitate to contact their classroom teacher or me at 564-4141. Each teacher has their own telephone extension. While their priority is the students in their classroom, you may leave a voice message for staff to return your call at their earliest convenience. Email is also an option. The student handbook and staff contact information are available on the school's website for your reference.

As the principal, one of my top priorities is ensuring that every student grows academically. Our dedicated teachers work to continuously improve their professional skills, staying current with the best educational practices and taking part in professional development. We are committed to fostering an environment where all students can learn and thrive.

We are looking forward to connecting with families at our Back to School Open House on Wednesday, August 28th, from 3:45-5:45. Please note that the first day of school is Tuesday, September 3rd.

Enjoy the remaining days of summer, soaking up the sun and creating wonderful memories!

Respectfully,
Lisa Parrish

HEAD START INFORMATION

MENAHGA HEAD START is a preschool program provided at no cost to qualifying families. We offer a quality learning environment for children ages 3 to 5 using an Individualized Curriculum geared towards Kindergarten Readiness. Head Start provides opportunities for parent/family involvement through Family Events, Parent Meetings, and leadership roles in our Regional Policy Council. We accept children with disabilities. Classes are held on Monday through Thursday from 8:00 to 11:30 am in the Menahga Elementary School. Contact Rachel Sumner for an application or more information regarding the Menahga Head Start program

WHAT IS TITLE I FUNDING?

Title One is a federal program that gives additional money to schools based on the finances of the community. This funding helps make sure all children have the same chance to get a great education.

Why is it Important?

Title One funding helps us provide extra support and resources to students. This support can make a big difference in your child's education, helping them do their best in school.

How Does the Menahga District Use Title One Funds?

Here are some of the ways we use Title One funds to benefit our students:

- More Teachers and Staff: We can hire more teachers and support staff to make classes smaller and give students more individual attention.
- Special Programs: We offer special programs and help for students who need extra support in reading and math.
- Teacher Training: We provide training for our teachers to ensure they have the best skills and knowledge to help your child learn.
- Parent Involvement: We organize events and programs that encourage parents to be involved in their child's education, which is crucial for student success. Please be on the lookout for Title One stations during conferences and school events!

How Can Families Get Involved?

We believe that parents play a vital role in their child's education. Here's how you can get involved:

- Stay Informed: Keep up with school news and updates, and attend school meetings and events.
- Communicate: Talk regularly with your child's teachers and school staff.
- Support Learning at Home: Encourage your child to read, complete homework, and do learning activities at home.

Menahga schools are committed to using Title One funds effectively to create a supportive and enriching learning environment for all our students. If you have any questions or would like more information about Title One, please feel free to contact us.

Thank you for your continued support and involvement in your child's education!

Respectfully,
Lisa Parrish, Menahga Elementary Principal

SCHOOL CENSUS

Parents and new residents with children ages 0-5 who have not yet registered with the school census, please do so through the elementary office at 564-4141 ext 1.

M Braves
After School Child Care
MONDAY - FRIDAY
3:15PM-5:00PM
COST: \$7 PER DAY PER CHILD

GRADES K-6

WHAT WE PROVIDE

- Homework Help
- STEM Activities
- After School Snack

Menahga Public Schools

For questions & registration, please contact the District Office.

(218)564-4141

Registration Due By: August 20th

MENAHGA.K12.MN.US

**2024-25
PRESCHOOL
Information**

Questions? Please contact Jamie Etzler at jetzler@menahga.k12.mn.us or call 218-564-4141 Ext. 1120.

Applications are available online at menahga.k12.mn.us or can be picked up in the Menahga Elementary Office.

Welcome to the 2024-2025 School Year!



*From the
Desk of*
Michelle Koch
**High School
Principal**

Welcome Back!
I am thrilled to welcome you back to another exciting school year at Menahga High School! I hope your summer was filled with fun, relaxation, and memorable moments with family and friends.
As we get ready for this new academic year, I have a lot of optimism and excitement for the opportunities that lie ahead. Our dedicated staff has been working to prepare for your return, ensuring that our classrooms are ready to inspire and challenge you. We have new

and exciting programs, activities, and initiatives planned to make this year engaging and successful for all.
At Menahga High School, we are committed to fostering a positive and inclusive learning environment where every student can thrive. Our focus will continue to be on academic excellence, personal growth, and community involvement. We believe in the potential of every student, and we are here to support you in achieving your goals.
We know that there has been a great deal of conversation surrounding the topic of cell phones in schools. Menahga High School has a very specific and supportive cell phone policy in place. There are some updates to make you aware of. To highlight, no electronic communication devices can be used in the classroom for any High School (7-12) student. 9th through 12th graders may check their phones between classes and at lunch. Our 7th and 8th graders may check their phones before and after school only. They may not

use their phones between class time or at lunch. A copy of the updated cell phone policy can be found in our Handbook and is included in this Newsletter.
We are looking forward to productive partnerships with you to ensure that all our students can achieve their highest potential. We recognize that to be successful in school, our students need and deserve strong school and family partnerships. Families are students' first and most important teachers, and our partnership will make a great difference in your child's education. As productive partners, we share the responsibility for success and want you to know that we will do our very best to carry out our responsibilities.
I am very proud to be the principal of this learning community and look forward to meeting each of you as we collaborate for success! As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please reach out anytime.
Michelle Koch, Menahga High School Principal

MENAHGA PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND ELEVATE ONLINE: A COLLABORATIVE K-12 ONLINE LEARNING PLATFORM FOR MENAHGA STUDENTS

In a pioneering move to support the educational needs of students in our District, Menahga Schools is joining forces with K-12 online learning platform, Elevate Online. This innovative program involves a joint effort between partner districts, including Menahga Schools, to determine course offerings and shape the future direction of the program. This united vision brings together students, teachers, online teachers, and parents to foster student success.
Rise Above: Elevate Online's Unique Approach
Elevate Online stands out with its team of experienced, Minnesota-licensed teachers who develop engaging lessons designed to stimulate curiosity and participation. The program's online classrooms feature daily, live video interactions, allowing students to engage with their peers in activities while also completing their individual work. Unlike other online programs, Elevate Online students remain enrolled in their home districts, enabling them to participate in extracurricular activities and other school events, thereby maintaining a strong sense

of community and school spirit.
Maintaining Home District Connections
One of the key features of Elevate Online is that it does not require open enrollment, allowing students to stay here with the Menahga School District. This approach helps preserve the community ties and school spirit that are vital to a student's overall educational experience. Elevate Online students can participate in extracurricular activities, ensuring they do not miss out on important social and developmental opportunities.
Mission and Vision
Elevate Online provides a high-quality and responsive online learning experience for all Menahga students through a service-based delivery model. This ensures that families have excellent, local options for online learning. Elevate Online believes that online learning is a crucial part of the educational services offered by districts to their families. The goal is to deliver a guaranteed and viable curriculum with engaging, personalized instruction.

With the partnership of Menahga Schools, Elevate Online is helping us to ensure that students receive a comprehensive, engaging, and flexible learning experience while staying connected to our school and community.
For more information, please reach out to Hope McAdow or Michelle Koch. You may also visit the Elevate Online website...<https://www.swmetro288.org/288-programs/elevate-online>

7th Grade Orientation and Open House:

Please join Mrs. Koch and Mr. Hedstrom in the High School Commons during Open House on August 28th from 5:30-6:00 for a quick and fun 7th Grade Orientation! We will have information specific to our 7th grade students, snacks, prizes and 8th grade students ready to share advice and helpful hints to make the transition to High School smooth and easy!

Menahga High School Electronic Device Policy (Updated for the 24-25 school year)

Cell Phones and Other Electronic Communication Devices

Cell phones (including watches that are capable of calling or texting) and other devices are allowed for 9-12th grade students before school, prior to 8:15, between classes, lunchtime, and after the 3:08 bell. For our 7th and 8th grade students, cell phones may only be used before and after school. Cell phones are not allowed during class time or after the tardy bell rings. Teachers may request cell phones to be collected at the beginning of class (basket). If a cell phone is seen or heard during class time, it will be confiscated and turned into the office.
Parents are asked to cooperate with the school in this matter and not text or call their child during class time. If a student needs to make a call in an emergency, they need to report to the office to request permission.
The school principal has the right to regulate electronic device usage. Menahga High School prohibits any member of the school to use electronic devices (including cell phones) to take a picture of a staff member or student for the purpose of displaying it on the internet or in any other public place without the permission of the person photographed. If students take pictures with cell phones or technology, students may be subject to discipline which can include suspension or expulsion. This is a confidentiality issue.

Electronic Device Violations:

- First Offense: The cell phone will be taken away and returned at the end of the day.
 - Second Offense: The cell phone will be taken away, and a parent or guardian must pick it up from the school office.
 - Third Offense: The student's cell phone will be turned into the high school office to be locked up daily for the rest of the semester.
 - Subsequent offenses will be dealt with by the administration.
- Unique Circumstances: Because it is not possible to list every violation that occurs, those not specified will be responded to as necessary by staff on a case-by-case basis. Unique or special circumstances may call for an adjustment in the discipline policies to meet the school's needs.

ALC INFORMATION

ALC through Freshwater Education District will be offered after school at the Menahga High School. This is for students who are behind credits and need to make them up in order to graduate. Classes will be held on Tuesdays and/or Thursdays after school depending on student scheduling needs from 3:30-7:00 p.m. Students already enrolled should attend Thursday, September 5th at 3:30. If you have any questions regarding ALC, you may contact John Fox, ALC Specialist at 218-631-3505 or email jfox@fed.k12.mn.us.

NEW STUDENT REGISTRATION

Any family that is new to our school system or community, should come to the school anytime after August 19th between the hours of 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. to fill out the proper registration forms.

School Supplies



PreK-6th Grade

Preschool

- ☐ Large glue sticks
- ☐ Crayola 10 count washable broad markers
- ☐ Bottle of Elmer's Glue
- ☐ Composition Notebook (full day)
- ☐ Gym Tennis shoes (full day)
- ☐ Backpack

Optional, but appreciated: Ziplock bags (gallon or sandwich), paper plates, Dixie Cups

Kindergarten Supply List

- ☐ Crayola 8 count crayons
- ☐ Crayola 24 count crayons
- ☐ Crayola 10 count washable broad markers
- ☐ Composition notebook
- ☐ 10 glue sticks
- ☐ 6 fine tip EXPO marker
- ☐ Large, labeled backpack
- ☐ Paper Plates
- ☐ Ziplock bags (gallon or sandwich)
- ☐ 1 change of clothes
- ☐ Gym Tennis shoes
- ☐ Plain plastic pencil box (no pouches or frills)
- ☐ Labeled headphones (no ear buds or wireless)

Optional, but appreciated: Kleenex, Clorox wipes

First Grade Supply List

- ☐ 24 #2 Pencils (No plastic coated)
- ☐ Crayola 24 count crayons
- ☐ Crayola 10 count washable broad markers
- ☐ 2 Pink erasers
- ☐ Composition notebook
- ☐ 6 Glue sticks
- ☐ 4 Expo Black, fine tip markers
- ☐ Pencil box
- ☐ Package Yellow Highlighters
- ☐ Labeled headphones (no ear buds or wireless)
- ☐ Box (any size) Ziplock bags
- ☐ Gym Tennis shoes
- ☐ Backpack

Optional, but appreciated: Kleenex, Clorox wipes

Second Grade Supply List

- ☐ 2 24 Packs of Ticonderoga Pencils
- ☐ 24 Pack of Crayola crayons
- ☐ 10 Pack of Crayola markers
- ☐ 12 Pack of colored pencils
- ☐ 5 Expo Fine Tipped Markers
- ☐ Labeled headphones (no ear buds or wireless)
- ☐ Backpack
- ☐ Gym Tennis shoes
- ☐ 2 Folders

Optional, but appreciated: Kleenex, Clorox wipes

Third Grade Supply List

- ☐ Pencils
- ☐ Crayons
- ☐ Markers
- ☐ Pink Erasers
- ☐ 4 composition notebooks
- ☐ 1 pack of glue sticks
- ☐ 1 glue bottle
- ☐ 10 Expo markers
- ☐ Expo eraser
- ☐ 4 folders
- ☐ Colored pencils
- ☐ Ruler
- ☐ Highlighter
- ☐ Labeled headphones (no ear buds or wireless)
- ☐ Pencil top erasers
- ☐ Pencil box
- ☐ Gym Tennis shoes
- ☐ Backpack

Optional, but appreciated: Kleenex, Clorox wipes

Fourth Grade Supply List

- ☐ 1 12 pack of pencils
- ☐ 3 Notebooks
- ☐ 4 Folders
- ☐ 4 chisel-point Expo Markers
- ☐ Pack colored pencils
- ☐ Pack of markers
- ☐ 2 Large Pink Erasers
- ☐ Gym Tennis shoes
- ☐ Backpack
- ☐ Pencil box
- ☐ Headphones, labeled

Optional, but appreciated: Kleenex, Clorox wipes, crayons, hand held pencil sharpener

Fifth Grade Supply List

- ☐ 24+ Pencils
- ☐ Large Pink eraser or pencil top erasers
- ☐ Colored Pencils
- ☐ Markers
- ☐ 2 Small tip Expo markers
- ☐ 2 Thin tip sharpie markers
- ☐ Scissors
- ☐ 4+ Glue sticks
- ☐ 3+ Folders
- ☐ 3+ Notebooks
- ☐ Ruler
- ☐ Headphones
- ☐ Backpack
- ☐ Gym Tennis shoes

Optional, but appreciated: Kleenex, Clorox wipes, Ziplock bags (Gallon or quart), Hand held pencil sharpener, crayons

Sixth Grade Supply List

- ☐ 2 Notebooks
- ☐ 5 Folders
- ☐ 12 Pack of #2 Pencils
- ☐ Large Eraser
- ☐ Pencil top erasers
- ☐ 2 Expo markers
- ☐ Headphones, labeled
- ☐ Colored pencils
- ☐ Gym Tennis shoes
- ☐ Backpack

Optional, but appreciated: Kleenex, Clorox wipes, crayons, hand held pencil sharpener

7th-12th Grade School Supplies

7th & 8th Grade Supply List

- ☐ Pencils
- ☐ Pens
- ☐ 10 Folders
- ☐ 10 Notebooks
- ☐ Gym Shoes



9th-12th Grade Supply List

- ☐ Pencils
- ☐ Pens
- ☐ Folders (Per Scheduled Courses)
- ☐ Notebooks (Per Scheduled Courses)
- ☐ Gym Shoes (9th Grade)





From the Desk of
Activites
Director
Michael Weerts

Welcome back! The summer flew by, but that just means the Braves and Warriors athletics are gearing up for an exciting season! The gym has been buzzing all summer long with our dedicated athletes.

Get ready for an action-packed year with our Braves and Warriors teams! We'll be live streaming all our home games, including football and volleyball, on Hudl. Best of all, it's free for you to watch from the comfort of your own home.
As you step into the High School gym this year, you might notice some changes. Thank you to the Shane Keranen Foundation for their generous donation toward our banners. Swing by and see for yourself! More updates are on the way, so keep an eye out.
Our rebranding efforts will continue into the fall, with an extension until 2026.

Don't forget about our community education classes for both adults and students. You can easily register for these classes online at <https://www.menahga.k12.mn.us/community-education/>
I'm thrilled for the upcoming year and can't wait to make it a fantastic one!
I don't know where you'll be, but I'll be HERE...in Menahga!
Go Braves! Go Warriors!



Like us on
Facebook

STUDENT INSURANCE AVAILABLE

The Menahga Public Schools is not responsible for any accidental injuries that occur to students while under the school's supervision or participating in interscholastic sports.
Our School District has partnered with Student Assurance Services to give families the opportunity to purchase

accident insurance for their student(s). When enrolled, this coverage provides financial assistance with your out-of-pocket medical expenses should your student sustain an accidental bodily injury.
If you have any questions regarding this voluntary student accident insurance program, please contact Student Assurance Services at (800) 328-2739. You will speak with a live person who can assist you with your questions.
To Enroll Your Student & Review Medical Benefits Visit: www.sas-mn.com

After School Expectations

Students who are not participating in after school activities **MUST VACATE** the school building at the end of the school day unless permission is granted to do otherwise. If your child needs to stay after school, please make prior arrangements with Michael Weerts, Michelle Koch or John Hedstrom. During game days or any other events, students may re-enter the building 20 minutes prior to the start of the first game or event.
During games, students must be in the vicinity of the game that is being played. Students may not be in other parts of the building unsupervised. If students are not behaving or following directions, they will be removed from the building. It will be the responsibility of the guardian of how the student will be transported home.
Students who are under the age of 14 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

Band Students & Families!

Eckroth Music & Schmitt Music will host instrument displays during Menahga's Back to School Open House & during the first week of school.
Who: Anyone interested in setting up a rent-to-buy plan with one of the music stores
Where: Menahga band room
Why: Set up a plan, ask questions, get information
Eckroth Display: Wednesday, August 28, 3:45-5:45
Schmitt Display: Thursday, September 5, 3:00-5:00
Contact Beth Hahn with any questions at bhahn@menahga.k12.mn.us or call 564-4141 ext 1220.
6th graders- It's not too late to sign up for sixth grade band! Check your mail for more information and registration forms.

Special Announcements and School Closings

The School District will inform you via Instant Alert, School Facebook and School Website.
The following stations that will be notified of school closings:
TV STATIONS: WCCO, Fox 9-KMSP, KSTP, KSAX, WDAY & KARE 11
RADIO STATIONS:
KKWS(105.9 FM), KDKK (97.5 FM), KXXX(92.5 FM), KPRM (870 AM), KWAD (920 AM) & KMSP (1420 AM)

FALL Menahga Varsity 2024

SPORTS SCHEDULE

WARRIORS

CROSS COUNTRY

Thurs, Aug. 29th 7:00pm vs. Browerville
Fri, Sept. 6th 7:00pm Away vs. Lake Park Audubon
Fri, Sept. 13th 7:00pm vs. Red Lake
Fri, Sept. 20th 7:00pm Away vs. Red Lake Cty Central
Fri, Sept. 27th 7:00pm vs. Bagley (Homecoming)
Fri, Oct. 4th 7:00pm Away vs. Ada-Borup
Fri, Oct. 11th 7:00pm Away vs. Polk County West
Wed, Oct. 16th 7:00pm vs. Mahnomen-Waubun

VOLLEYBALL

Tues, Aug. 27th 7:00pm vs. Hawley
Thurs, Sept. 5th 7:15pm vs. Sebeka
Tues, Sept. 10th 7:00pm vs. Barnesville
Thurs, Sept. 12th 7:15pm vs. Pillager
Sat, Sept. 14th 9:00am Tournament at Walker-Hackensack-Akeley
Mon, Sept. 16th 7:00pm Away vs. Pelican Rapids
Thurs, Sept. 19th 7:15pm Away vs. Wadena-Deer Creek
Mon, Sept. 23rd 7:00pm Away vs. Park Rapids
Tues, Sept. 24th 7:00pm vs. Browerville (Homecoming)
Thurs, Sept. 26th 7:15pm Away vs. Henning
Sat, Sept. 28th 9:00am Tournament at Barnesville
Mon, Sept. 30th 7:00pm Away vs. Frazee
Thurs, Oct. 3rd 7:15pm Away vs. Bertha-Hewitt
Sat, Oct. 5th 11:00am Away vs. Benson & Brandon-Evansville
Thurs, Oct. 10th 7:15pm vs. New York Mills
Mon, Oct. 14th 7:15pm vs. Walker-Hackensack-Akeley
Tues, Oct. 15th 7:15pm Away vs. Verndale

Tues, Sept. 3rd 4:00pm at Wadena-Deer Creek
Fri, Sept. 13th 8:40pm at Moorhead State University
Tues, Sept. 17th 4:30pm at Bagley
Fri, Sept. 20th TBD at University of Minnesota
Tues, Sept. 24th 4:00pm at Bertha-Hewitt
Thurs, Oct. 3rd 4:00pm at Hawley
Thurs, Oct. 10th 4:00pm at Perham
Tues, Oct. 15th 4:00pm at Bertha-Hewitt
Fri, Oct. 25th 4:00pm at Bagley

Go Braves!

M Braves

*Athletic Schedules are Subject to Change.



Menahga High School is working with Sourcewell and other school districts in our region on Career Pathways. The Career Pathways in Menahga are specific to our students' needs, goals and interests! Career Pathways will hopefully become a common language amongst our community as the program grows and we look at success through indicators of being College, Career and Life Ready all while exploring and expanding the individual students interests based on their pathway choice (Health & Human Services, Trades, Engineering Arts, Agri-

culture & Natural Resources, and Business & Technology). Within the students pathways they will have the opportunity to take courses that are specific to their goals and participate in pathway specific learning opportunities in the community!

We are always looking for Career Speakers, Work Based Learning/Internship Experiences and Industry Tours or Industry specific credentialing needs and opportunities to help grow our students' interests, abilities and experiences. Please reach out to Hope McAdow if you are interested in learning more!

....and keep your eyes open as we celebrate the successes of YOU(R) students this upcoming school year - they are all truly incredible people.

Hope McAdow
Student Support Coordinator

BACKGROUND CHECK PROCEDURES

In compliance with Minnesota Statute 123B.03, Subd. 1(e) we are required to notify parents and/or guardians at the beginning of each school year of our hiring authority's policy requiring a criminal history background check on employees and other individuals who provide services to the school.

Bus Stop Connection



School time is in the air!! We and our drivers are excited and looking forward to seeing your student on their bus or van. As bus routes are being planned, **there are expectations** in place to ensure your student is able to take advantage of their riding privilege. Please take a moment to read over these reminders.

STOP Make sure the school has your current address and contact phone number(s). These are vital in keeping communication open and ensuring your student is being picked up and dropped off in the correct location.

STOP Have your student ready and standing at their stop 3 to 5 minutes prior to scheduled pick-up time. Our drivers strive to be at their stops right on time so having your student outside and waiting helps the driver to be on time to every stop.

STOP You will be receiving notification of your pick-up time as early as August 26th. Make sure a message can be left on your voicemail in the event you are unable to answer the call. **If you have not received a notice by the end of day Friday, August 30th, call the bus garage.**

STOP On the bus, students are to do their part in keeping the environment clean. Food is not to be consumed on school buses due to allergies and garbage goes in the trash can.

STOP Safety is VERY important! Students are to remain in their seats while the bus is in motion. Also, remember to keep the aisle clear by keeping all body parts within the seat area.

STOP Students must acquire a bus pass, from the office, in order to ride a bus they are not assigned to. Passes are only given out for childcare purposes. Parent notes to a driver will not be accepted.

Parents play the biggest role in helping our drivers transport students and we would not be successful without you. Please call, text or email with any questions, comments or concerns.

Christina Albin
Transportation Supervisor
Office: (218) 564-8402
Email: calbin@menahga.k12.mn.us

FROM THE KITCHEN

Welcome Back from the Nutrition & Food Services Team!! We are looking forward to students filling the cafeteria once again. A few things to take note of:

Free School Meals: One free Breakfast and one free Lunch will be provided to each student daily. Second Entrées will be available for students Grades 9-12 to purchase for \$2.00.

Milk: 1% white and Chocolate Skim are available at each meal. Lactose Free will be provided upon written request.

Food Allergies: If your student has a new

food allergy or there are changes to a current allergy, let us know as soon as possible.

We encourage students to 'fuel up' with school breakfast and lunch each day so they can be energized for success in the classroom.

Let us know if you have any questions or concerns: Tanya Crook or Amanda Roiko. 218-564-4141 ext. 1333 or tcrook@menahga.k12.mn.us or aroiko@menahga.k12.mn.us
Monthly menu can be found on our school website: menahga.k12.mn.us



Transportation REMINDER:

Students **HAVE TO** obtain a **BUS PASS** from the High School/Elem. Office to ride a different bus than they are assigned to! Any after school transportation changes need to be called in before **1:00pm.**

PLEASE NOTE:
Bus passes are only given out for child care or extra curricular activities that are preapproved.

School's Open... Drive Safely

BOARD OF EDUCATION



The Menahga School Board meets on the third Monday of each month at 6:30 pm in the High School Media Center. Watch the school website for meeting notices and agendas. Your school board members are:

Andrea Haverinen, Board Chair Katie Howard, Clerk
Cherie Peterson, Vice Chair Julia Kicker, Treasurer
Helen Lehto, Director David Treinen, Director

Infinite Campus
Student Information System

To access information regarding schedules, grades, attendance, forms, and to apply for educational benefits, log in to the Infinite Campus parent portal. You can find the link on our website home page. www.menahga.k12.mn.us

The portal is also available as an app for Android, iPhones, iPads, and iPad touch devices. The app will ask for the district ID which is 2720580.

BUILDING HOURS

The school building will be open from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm Monday through Friday, when school is in session. Parents are reminded that they, as well as any visitor, must register in one of the offices when you enter the building. If you need to be in the building other than those hours, please call the office and make arrangements. Thank you for your cooperation.

School Calendar 2024-2025

Aug. 26-28 Staff Development
Aug. 28..... K-12 Open House, 3:45-5:45 pm
Sept. 2 No School, Labor Day
Sept. 3 First Day of School
Oct. 17-18 No School
Nov. 1..... End of First Quarter
Nov. 14..... No School, K-12 Conferences
8am-7:30pm
Nov. 15.....No School-Staff Development
Nov. 28-29 No School
Dec. 23- Jan. 1 No School
Jan. 17..... End of Semester- 2nd Quarter
Jan. 20 No School- Staff Development
Feb. 17 No School
Feb. 18 No School, K-12 Conferences
8am-7:30pm
Mar. 21 End of Third Quarter
Mar. 24 No School- Staff Development
Apr. 18 No School- Staff Development
Apr. 21 No School
May 23 ... Student’s Last Day of School, Graduation

Braves **NOW HIRING!**
Substitute Teachers

➤ COMPENSATION : \$175 FULL DAY / \$100 HALF DAY
➤ REQUIREMENTS: MN SUBSTITUTE TEACHER LICENSE

If interested, please contact Patty Melander for more information.
218-564-4141 ext.1402
pmelander@menahga.k12.mn.us

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE!
www.menahga.k12.mn.us

OPTIONAL: Children’s Racial and Ethnic Identities

We are required to ask for information about your children’s race and ethnicity. This information is important and helps to make sure we are fully serving our community. Responding to this section is optional and does not affect your children’s eligibility. Respond to both Step One, Ethnicity and Step Two, Race.

Step One: Ethnicity (check one): ☐ Hispanic or Latino ☐ Not Hispanic or Latino

Step Two: Race (check one or more): ☐ American Indian or Alaskan Native ☐ Asian ☐ Black or African American ☐ Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander ☐ White

INSTRUCTIONS: Sources of Income

Sources of Income for Children Sources of Income for Adults

Sources of Child Income	Examples		Earnings from Work	Public Assistance / Alimony / Child Support	All Other Income
- Earnings from work - Social Security - Disability Payments - Survivor’s Benefits - Income from person outside the household - Income from any other source	A child has a regular full or part-time job where they earn a salary or wages A child is blind or disabled and receives Social Security - A Parent is disabled, retired, or deceased, and their child receives Social Security benefits - A friend or extended family member regularly gives a child spending money - A child receives regular income from a private pension fund, annuity, or trust		- Salary, wages, cash bonuses (before deductions or taxes) - Net income from self-employment (farm or business) - If you are in the U.S. Military: - Basic pay and cash bonuses (do NOT include combat pay, FSSA or privatized housing allowances) - Allowances for off-base housing, food and clothing	- Cash Assistance from State or local government - Supplemental Security Income - Unemployment benefits - Worker’s compensation - Alimony payments - Child support payments - Veteran’s benefits - Strike benefits	- Social Security - Disability benefits - Regular income from trusts or estates - Annuities - Investment income - Rental income - Regular cash payments from outside household

The Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act requires the information on this application. You do not have to give the information, but if you do not, we cannot approve your child for free or reduced price meals. You must include the last four digits of the social security number of the adult household member who signs the application. The last four digits of the social security number is not required when you apply on behalf of a foster child or you list a Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program or Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) case number or other FDPIR identifier for your child or when you indicate that the adult household member signing the application does not have a social security number. We will use your information to determine if your child is eligible for free or reduced price meals, and for administration and enforcement of the lunch and breakfast programs. We MAY share your eligibility information with education, health, and nutrition programs to help them evaluate, fund, or determine benefits for their programs, auditors for program reviews, and law enforcement officials to help them look into violations of program rules.

At public school districts, each student’s school meal status also is recorded on a statewide computer system used to report student data to MDE as required by state law. MDE uses this information to: (1) Administer state and federal programs, (2) Calculate compensatory revenue for public schools, and (3) Judge the quality of the state’s educational program.

Nondiscrimination statement: In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity.

Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language), should contact the responsible state or local agency that administers the program or USDA’s TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained online at: <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/ad-3027.pdf>, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant’s name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by:

(1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or

(2) fax: (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Our school offers healthy meals each day. All students can get one breakfast and one lunch free of charge each day at school. Although no application is required to receive this free meal benefit, filling out the Application for Educational Benefits is still important! Your child(ren) may qualify for other benefits like reduced fees at school. Your application may also help the school qualify for education funds, discounts, and other meal programs.

Who should complete this application? Children in households participating in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP) or Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR), and foster, homeless, migrant and runaway children qualify without reporting household income. Alternatively, children can qualify if their household income is within the maximum income shown for their household size on the instructions.

I get WIC or Medical Assistance. Can my children qualify? Children in households participating in WIC or Medical Assistance do not automatically qualify. Children may be eligible depending on other household financial information. Please fill out an application.

Who should I include as household members? Include yourself and all other people living in the household, related or not (such as grandparents, other relatives, or friends).

May I apply if someone in my household is not a U.S. citizen? Yes. You or your children do not have to be U.S. citizens for you to complete an application.

What if my income is not always the same? List the amount that you normally get. If you normally get overtime, include it, but not if you get overtime only sometimes. For seasonal work, write in the total annual income.

Will the income information or case number I give be checked? It may be. We may also ask you to send written proof.

How will the information be kept? Information you provide on the form, and your child's approval, will be protected as private data. For more information, see the back page of the Application for Educational Benefits.

If I don't qualify now, may I apply later? Yes. Please complete an application at any time if your income goes down, your household size goes up, or you start getting SNAP, MFIP or FDPIR benefits.

If you have other questions or need help, call Amanda Aho at 218-564-4141 Ext.3.

Sincerely,
Jay Kjos, Superintendent

Complete the Application for Educational Benefits form for school year 2024–25 if any of the following applies to your household:

• Any household member currently participates in the Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP), or the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), or the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) or

•The household includes one or more foster children (a welfare agency or court has legal responsibility for the child) or

• The total income of household members is within the guidelines shown below (gross earnings before deductions, not take-home pay). Do not include as income: foster care payments, federal education benefits, MFIP payments, or value of assistance received from SNAP, WIC, or FDPIR. Military: Do not include combat pay or assistance from the Military Privatized Housing Initiative. The income guidelines are effective from July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025.

Household Size	\$ Per Year	Maximum Total Income			
		\$ Per Month	\$ Twice Per Month	\$ Per 2 Weeks	\$Per Week
1	27,861	2,322	1,161	1,072	536
2	37,814	3,152	1,576	1,455	728
3	47,767	3,981	1,991	1,838	919
4	57,720	4,810	2,405	2,220	1,110
5	67,673	5,640	2,820	2,603	1,302
6	77,626	6,469	3,235	2,986	1,493
7	87,579	7,299	3,650	3,369	1,685
8	97,532	8,128	4,064	3,752	1,876
Add for each additional person:	9,953	830	415	383	192

Step 1: Children: List all infants and children in the household, their school and grade if applicable, and birthdate. Attach an additional page if needed to list all children. Check the box if a child is in foster care (a welfare agency or court has legal responsibility for the child).

Step 2: Case Number: If any household member currently participates in SNAP, MFIP or FDPIR, write in the case number and then go to Step 4. If you do not participate in any of these programs, leave Step 2 blank and continue on to Step 3.

Step 3: Adult and Child Incomes / Last 4 Digits of Social Security Number

• **Social Security Number/Total Household Members.** An adult household member must provide the last four digits of their Social Security number or check the box if they do not have a Social Security number. Report the total number of household members and ensure all household members are listed individually on the application in the child or adult section as applicable.

• **Child Income.** If any children in the household have regular income, such as SSI or part-time jobs, list the total amount of regular incomes received by all children, and check the box for the frequency: weekly, bi-weekly, twice a month, or monthly. Do not include occasional earnings like babysitting or lawn mowing.

•Adult income. Report the names of adult household members and income earned in this section.

o List all adults living in the household not listed in Step 1, whether related or not, such as grandparents, relatives, or friends.

o Gross Earnings from Work. This is usually the money received from working at jobs where a pay-check is received. For each income, check the box to show how often the income is received: weekly, bi-weekly, twice per month, or monthly.

o List gross incomes before deductions, not take-home pay. Do not list an hourly wage rate. For adults with no income to report, enter a '0' or leave the section blank. For seasonal work, write in the total annual income.

o Are you Self-Employed or a Farmer? List the net income per month or year after business expenses.

Do not list the same income twice on the application. A loss from farm or self-employment must be listed as 0 income and does not reduce other income.

o Any Other Gross Income. List gross incomes before deductions from all other sources, such as SSI, unemployment, child support, public assistance, social security, rental income or annuities.

Step 4: Signature and Contact Information An adult household member must sign the form. If you do not want your information to be shared with Minnesota Health Care Programs, check the “Don’t share” box in Step 4.

Optional: Please provide the information on ethnicity and race that is requested on the second page of the form. This information is not required and does not affect approval for school meal benefits. The information helps to ensure we are meeting civil rights requirements and fully serving our community.

Complete one application per household for all children. Please use pen (not a pencil). Mail or return completed form to: (School/District Information) Menahga Public Schools ISD#82

STEP 1: List ALL Household Members who are infants, children, and students up to and including grade 12 (if more spaces are required for additional names, attach another sheet of paper).

Definition: A Household Member is “Anyone living with you and shares income and expenses, even if not related.” Read *How to Complete the Application for Educational Benefits* for more information. Adults over grade 12 living in the same household should be reported in Step 3. If your children attend different districts or charter/nonpublic schools, return an application at each one.

Child's First Name (list all children in household)	MI	Child's Last Name	School	Grade	Birthdate	Foster Child (✓)
						☐
						☐
						☐
						☐
						☐

STEP 2: Do Any Household Members (including you) currently participate in one or more of the following assistance programs: SNAP, MFIP or FDIPIR? Medical assistance **does not** qualify. If **NO** -> Go to STEP 3.

If YES >Enter SNAP, MFIP or FDPIR Case Number (between 4-9 digits, do not report EBT card number) _____ then go to STEP 4 (Do not complete STEP 3)

STEP 3: Report Income for ALL Household Members (Skip this step if you answered 'Yes' to STEP 2)

- Last Four Digits of Social Security Number (SSN) of Adult Household Member: XXX-XX- Or Check if Adult has No SSN: ☐ Total Number of All Household Members (Children + Adults)
- Child Income.

Sometimes children in the household earn or receive income, such as from a part time job or SSI. Please include the TOTAL income received by all children listed in STEP 1. Do not include income received by adults in the box to the right.	Total Income Received by All Children	Weekly	Bi-weekly	2x Month	Monthly
	\$	☐	☐	☐	☐

- All Adult Household Members (including yourself).** For each Household Member listed, if they do receive income, report total gross income only. If they do not receive income from any source, write '0' or leave any fields blank. You are certifying (promising) that there is no income to report. Not sure what income to include here? Flip the page and review "Sources of Income" for information. "Sources of Income" will help you with the Child Income section and All Adult Household Members section.

Names of All Adult Household Members (First and Last)						Gross Earnings from Working at Jobs				Are you Self-Employed or a Farmer?					Any Other Gross Income	
List all Household members not listed in STEP 1 (including yourself) even if they do not receive income. Include children who are temporarily away at school or in college.		Weekly	Bi-weekly	2x Month	Monthly	Report income before deductions or taxes in whole dollars (no cents).		Monthly	Yearly	Net income from Farm or Self-Employment. Do not duplicate elsewhere.		Weekly	Bi-weekly	2x Month	Monthly	SSI, Unemployment, Public Assistance, Child Support, and others on Page 2
		☐	☐	☐	☐	\$		☐	☐	\$		☐	☐	☐	☐	\$
		☐	☐	☐	☐	\$		☐	☐	\$		☐	☐	☐	☐	\$
		☐	☐	☐	☐	\$		☐	☐	\$		☐	☐	☐	☐	\$
		☐	☐	☐	☐	\$		☐	☐	\$		☐	☐	☐	☐	\$

STEP 4: Contact information and adult signature. "I certify (promise) that all information on this application is true and that all income is reported. I understand that this information is given in connection with the receipt of Federal funds, and that school officials may verify (check) the information. I am aware that if I purposely give false information, my children may lose meal benefits, and I may be prosecuted under applicable State and Federal laws."

☐ I have checked this box if I *do not* want my information shared with Minnesota Health Care Program as allowed by state law.

Printed name of adult signing form		Daytime Phone
Address (if available) Apt#	City	Zip

SIGN HERE: Signature of Household Adult _____ **Date** _____

[illegible]