

Greetings from WWG Schools,

We finally had some cooler weather and the kids and staff are enjoying it! It was quite a hot spell and I was really proud of our staff and students for their great attitudes. It was the first time in my 20+ years that we released early due to the heat and humidity. As we near midterm of the first quarter, it looks to be a bit more seasonable and the students should have a great homecoming week! I wanted to share a few updates and I hope that you contact me with any comments or questions at lwoelber@mntm.org or 507-828-6608.

- Our enrollment teeters around 400 students this year. That is a dip in numbers but on the bright side our kindergarten numbers are up.
- Our small school district has two amazing fitness centers for the public! We just moved the Walnut Grove center from a small lower level room to a bigger, brighter, more accessible room in the SW corner of the building. It has private, direct access to the locker room, showers and bathroom and I hope you take the time to check it out. We will have an open house and free trials next month. By being a member of our fitness centers for just \$20 a month, you have access in both Westbrook and Walnut Grove.
- In case you have not been to any of our fall activities, you are missing a couple neat changes! We have 3 new ticket booths on the football field to shelter our dear Lions members from the elements. This was made possible by our building trade's class and donations from 5 alumni families. We also have a new sound system in the gymnasium which rivals any gym in the State and was partially funded by generous alumni. Improvements never cease around here and I feel our students deserve every bit of what we had as well as what students across the State have.
- With regards to technology, we have an IPAD in the elementary for every 2 students as well as a very nice computer lab. In the secondary, we now have 3 mobile laptop labs as well as two other labs accessible to our staff and students.
- We have made additional improvements in our preschool program. We continue to ramp up technology in the area with IPADS and an "interactive table" that operates like a giant IPAD. We also added an additional classroom in order to break the students into smaller groups and give them a couple different environments throughout the day. I believe preschool is very important for the kids to give them the jumpstart they need before entering kindergarten. The annual WG alumni golf tourney supports our preschool program as well as local scholarships! This tourney is held annually in Westbrook and always has room for more supporters!
- We have had one meeting to begin to brainstorm HOW TO CUT BACK ON THE FUNDRAISING STORM that happens every year in our district. We really appreciate how supportive the communities are of our school but we also realize that many folks get tired of it and wish something different could happen. I have also met with the Westbrook Area Education Foundation about this issue and they want to be a part of the solution. The foundation would like to work on annual drives and give a percent of the proceeds to the various clubs / organizations in the school. One major point of agreement is for the fundraising advisors and students sharing the % cut they get from selling the product. The average amount that goes back to the club is 30%. We want our public to know that it is perfectly fine to donate \$3 to a

club vs. buying a product for \$10 that you really didn't want anyway. What I hope to do with my family is give the straight 30% cash of whatever we would buy vs. paying the fundraising company their 70%. I WELCOME YOU COMMENTS AND APPRECIATE FEEDBACK!

- We really have 4 amazing communities in this district! I don't take that lightly and I think we take it for granted how good the folks are to one another as well as this school district. I hope that folks that are very involved extend an invitation to a neighbor to get involved. I hope that folks newer to town that would like to be a part of something contact me and I will hook you up with a great group of people! Our schools, cities, community clubs and churches want the support and really appreciate new members!