

PĪTĀCEMOW

"He or she who brings stories/news"

The School Attendance Challenge

Since the pandemic, school attendance has become a nationwide challenge. Last year, Wisconsin public schools saw the average attendance rate fall to 91 percent, with more than 22 percent of students missing at least a month of school. This alarming statistic shows the effects of the pandemic are lingering, and school districts, including MISD, are implementing ways to get students back into the classroom.

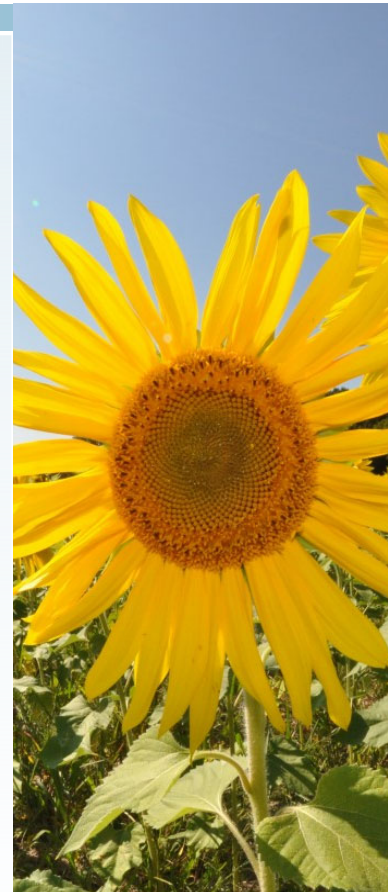


If students aren't in the classroom, they can quickly fall behind and that can eventually lead to students dropping out or failing to graduate.

At MISD, we closely monitor the attendance rates and focus our efforts on finding the root causes of chronic absenteeism and helping students and families overcome those barriers. In collaboration with the community, including local agencies, departments and governments, MISD has implemented a chronic absenteeism initiative focusing on results-driven strategies. Some of these strategies include:

- Encouraging stronger family engagement through regular communication with parents via newsletters, emails, social media, online tools and home visits with trained Success Mentors.
- Offering an on-site student health care center that allows students to access health services while at school.
- Providing washers and dryers at schools so students can do laundry on campus if it's not available at home.
- Weekly attendance meetings with principals and teachers to identify, early on, students who may be having attendance challenges..

This community-based approach is experiencing success, helping the MISD graduation rate climb to 95%. Our goal is to get every student to graduation day, well prepared for their future. Solving chronic absenteeism is a priority for MISD and we hope the the community continues to work with us on tackling this issue.



Inside this issue

MIMS Last Day	2
Culture Camp	2
Drug Use Data.....	3
July Calendar	4



MISD VISION

Enriching the lives of
our children through
education

A Kickin' Good Time at MIMS

It was a fun-filled last full day of school for MIMS 6th and 7th graders! School Resource Officer, Rich Nacotee, and the Menominee Tribal Police Department challenged students to a game of kickball to mark the end the school year. Students enjoyed a day with a little healthy competition and fresh air.



Apply Now for Youth Culture Camp



Learning and embracing the Menominee culture. That's what students will come away with from a weeklong Youth **Culture Camp** program that will be held in late July.



The Youth Culture Camp, open to Menominee youngsters between the ages of 12 and 17, helps them gain experience with Menominee culture and language through hands-on learning, discussion groups and field trips; strengthening their knowledge and respect for our tribal people and land.

The camp runs from July 23-28. You must apply in advance. Applications are available at the Historic Preservation Office and Omaeqnomenewak Wetohatikamek (FACE Center). Application deadline is 4:30 p.m. July 17. We hope to see you at camp!

Understanding Drug Use Data



Illegal drugs can be found just about everywhere these days, including schools. When it comes to Menominee schools, both MISD and Menominee Tribal School, we see substance use referrals spike in September and October of each year and then it drops off a bit before spiking again in January and February. This tells us there is a correlation between break times and an increase in substance use. We have also seen a rise in vaping by younger students, who tell us it's

something they see at home. While troubling, it is good to know these trends and patterns as we look for signs a student may need help.

For students who are referred for help, our approach is not to be punitive. We look at interventions that include wrap-around, supportive services. Do they need treatment? Do they need a place to live? Is their homelife unstable? We look at the underlying reasons for the issue and try to approach helping them in a way that yields results and minimizes the stressors leading to drug use. In the past, many educational facilities would simply expel a student. While it may remove a student from your school, it doesn't help the student deal with the issues they face and it doesn't put them on a path to success. Expulsion is not a first step – it's a last resort.

Prevention of course is a key. Reaching out and talking with students, and helping them understand the impact drugs have on their brains as well as their lives, is often the most impactful way to get them to say no to dangerous drugs. We need to do more of that. We also need family, friends and the community to do the same. If our youngsters know drug use and abuse won't be tolerated, they will be less likely to use.

A Reason to Celebrate!

There's nothing quite like a high school graduation! The Class of 2023 celebrated their high school achievements with a graduation ceremony at the end of May.

Student speakers included Valedictorians, Jazzlynn Oshkosh and Alamea Pyawasay along with Salutatorian, Ashlee Corn. Attendees learned about the history of MISD from the school district superintendent, Wendall Waukau, and school board president David "Jonesy" Miller highlighted the graduates' responsibility of being future Menominee leaders.



**Menominee Indian
School District**

PO Box 1330
Keshena, WI 54135
Phone: 715.799.3824



Non Profit Org.
U.S. Postage PAID
Keshena, WI 54135
Permit No. 3

July 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17 School Board Meeting @ 5 p.m.	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					