



# GEM IN OUR BACKYARD

Being outdoors and on the water invigorates science teacher Jody Henseler, and she wants her students to appreciate the priceless gem in their backyard: Lake Michigan and the Great Lakes.

“This is one of the greatest resources on earth,” Henseler said. “Fresh water could be one of the next big battles. It’s right outside our door and we’ve got to understand and start caring about it now.”

Henseler and colleague Mary Waterhouse have made the local watershed the center of their seventh grade life sciences unit at Wilson Jr. High. The interactive, challenging lessons call for students to:

- Build and test Remote Operated Vehicles (ROVs) in school pool
- Use a Hydrolab data sonde to measure and monitor water quality and clarity
- Map shipwrecks off the coastline
- Wear waders and use nets and equipment to catch and identify species
- Study single-cell protozoans and other specimen via microscopes

**The projects are capturing students’ attention.**

Seventh grader Molly Forkins said she appreciates that the lessons go beyond reading and writing about science topics. “We do hands-on activities and she (Henseler) makes it a lot more

fun,” Forkins said. “I really liked looking at the microscope and seeing different cells and getting to test the ROVs in the pool.”

Fellow student Kyra Landay said, “The ROVs are one of the most fun things I’ve ever done in school.” The two joined a “SciGirls” group to build advanced ROVs during daily enrichment Hawk Time. They learned how to persevere and problem-solve when things go awry.

The lessons are fueled by resources made possible from a Great Lakes Bay Watershed Education Training (BWET) grant from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). MPSD is one of about a half dozen school districts participating in the grant program. MPSD also partners with the Wisconsin Maritime Museum on a teacher training program called “We All Live on the Water: Teachers as Watershed Leaders.”

A Manitowoc native and Lincoln High School alumna, Henseler cares deeply about her backyard and its maritime past and future. She had “an unbelievable experience” last August when she was among 16 teachers who traveled for a week on Lake Michigan aboard the Denis Sullivan tall ship, a re-creation of a 19th century three-masted, Great Lakes schooner. She is thrilled she has been chosen for another teacher project this July on Lake Erie, also offered through the Wisconsin Sea Grant and the Center for Great Lakes Literacy. Her goal is to travel on all the Great Lakes.



**SUPERINTENDENT MESSAGE:**

***MPSD Ready to Welcome Freshman to Lincoln High Washington and Wilson to become middle schools next fall***

This has been an amazing school year and I am proud of our students and staff for their accomplishments. Our students have engaged in career days, managed our school forests, created award-winning artwork, competed with a new robotics team, performed in music clinics in Minneapolis, broke school athletic records and much more. They have performed acts of charity, showed kindness toward each other and raised money for local causes.

As we finish the final days of school, we are already excited about next year. For one year only, our schools will welcome two incoming grades as we implement a grade alignment plan that will increase student learning opportunities, staff collaboration and district efficiency. Starting next fall, Lincoln will become a 9-12 grade high school, Washington and Wilson Jr. High Schools will be 6-8 grade middle schools, and our elementary schools will be 5K-5th grade.

Riverview Early Learning Center, MPSD's third-largest capacity building with a pool and outdoor learning center, will remain the district's hub for 4K and Early Childhood Learning programs and also will become an elementary school. Stangel Elementary School students and staff will move to Riverview. McKinley Academy will move its alternative high school and other programs and services into Stangel, and the district will determine the future use of the McKinley building, the district's oldest school built in 1891.

Thank you to our teachers and all district staff for collaborating to ensure everyone feels welcomed and supported at new schools. We held open houses this spring for incoming students at Lincoln, Washington and Wilson, and teachers welcomed new colleagues. Middle school students will have a week of fun orientation activities in August. Elementary schools will have open houses on Sept. 4, and Sept. 5 will be a day just for students attending new schools (grades 5K and 1, 6 and 7, 9 and 10). The first day of school for all MPSD students will be Friday, Sept. 6.

*Congratulations to our graduating Class of 2019! Enjoy our new Summer School classes and we look forward to welcoming students back in September!*



Mark Holzman  
MPSD Superintendent

**OUR vision**

- Inspiring Education
- Empowering Community
- Unleashing Potential

She has tapped experts to visit her classes, including a:

- Maritime archeologist from the Wisconsin Historical Society who showed underwater video of area shipwrecks. She gave students coordinates of the sunken ships and they used GPS units to find the locations. "We have three shipwrecks right off of our school forest."
- Fisheries specialist with the Wisconsin Sea Grant Institute based at the UW-Green Bay-Manitowoc campus. He helped students dissect the stomach of whitefish to study what they are eating and if they are eating invasive quagga mussels.

The mussels and other invasives are changing the lakes' fish habitat. Meanwhile, southwestern states want to pipe the fresh water to drought-stricken cities. These are issues Henseler says her students' generation will face.

"I want to get the kids to understand the lakes, take pride and want to protect them," she said, adding, "Without water, there is no life."

**»»» LEARN MORE:**

- wisconsinshipwrecks.org
- wisconsinmaritime.org
- www.regions.noaa.gov/great-lakes/
- cgll.org
- bit.ly/lake-michigan  
(Chicago Tribune article)
- Book: *The Death and Life of the Great Lakes* by Dan Egan



# CELEBRATIONS

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## MPSD Among Nation's 'Best Communities for Music Education'

For the third consecutive year, MPSD has been named among the nation's Best Communities for Music Education. The NAMM Foundation designation is awarded to districts that demonstrate outstanding achievement in efforts to provide music access and education to all students. MPSD is one of just 24 school districts in Wisconsin and 623 districts nationwide recognized.

## Singer Selected for State Honors Choir

Lincoln junior Michael King was selected to perform in the 2019 Wisconsin School Music Association State Honors Project mixed choir. After rehearsing and learning from professional conductors, the ensembles perform at the Wisconsin State Music Conference in October.



## New Lincoln Robotics Team Created

Kudos to rookie Lincoln High Robotics Team, illumibOTi 7619, for competing in tournaments in Sussex and Milwaukee. The team is comprised of 17 students with six mentors from MPSD faculty, Lakeshore FIRST Robotics and FIRST Inspires. Learn more at [illumiboti.wixsite.com/illumiboti](http://illumiboti.wixsite.com/illumiboti)



## Three Nominated for Impact Educator of Year

MPSD Pupil Services Director Joanne Metzen, Monroe Elementary Principal Bill Bertsche and Wilson Jr. High Math Teacher Kris Conrad were nominated for impact educator of the year through the Manitowoc Chamber. (Conrad not pictured.)



## ELA Teacher Renews National Board Certification

Congratulations to Washington Jr. High School English Language Arts teacher Lisa Bodwin for renewing her National

Board Certification, the gold standard in teacher certification! Bodwin is one of 42 Wisconsin teachers who renewed their certification in 2018.

## Junior to Travel to Japan as Ambassador

Meesha Medinger, a Lincoln High junior and International Baccalaureate student was selected to travel to Manitoewoc's sister city of Kamogawa, Japan as a student ambassador. The 10-day summer trip is part of the Manitoewoc International Relations Association Student Exchange Program.



## Senior Honored as Kohl Student Excellence Scholar

LHS Senior Sabine LaLiberte was awarded a \$10,000 Herb Kohl Educational Foundation



2019 Excellence Scholarship. The program honors students who have demonstrated academic potential, outstanding leadership, citizenship, community service, integrity and other special talents.

## Students Win Scholastic Art Awards

In Lincoln High's first time participating in the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards, junior Bee Hang earned a Silver Key award for his portrait grid drawing. Ong Xiong, Erik Hofmann and Blake Seidl earned honorable mentions, respectively, for their photography, drawing and painting.



## Lincoln Athlete Named Finalist for I Am Sport Award

Three-sport athlete Massendra Musial was one of three finalists for the USA Today I Am Sport Award. The award recognizes student athletes who give back to the youth in their communities. Musial is a leader in numerous clubs, tutors an after school program, coaches junior basketball, lectures at church and much more.



# We Need You!



Manitowoc Public  
School District  
2902 Lindbergh Drive  
Manitowoc, WI 54220

## Hiring Substitutes

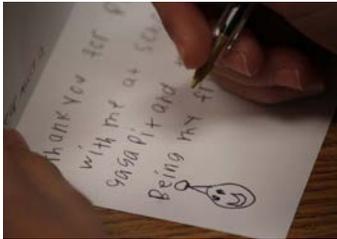
We are hiring substitute special education classroom aides.

**Apply** at [manitowocpublicschools.org/district/hr](http://manitowocpublicschools.org/district/hr)

## Enroll in MPSD for 2019-20

We welcome students who live inside and outside MPSD boundaries.

**Learn more** at [manitowocpublicschools.org/parents/register](http://manitowocpublicschools.org/parents/register)



## Building Character and RelationSHIPS

Madison Elementary started new groups for boys and girls in Grades 4 to 6 called the League of Gentlemen and League of Ladies. The group teaches students how to greet people, problem-solve, interact with others, be a caring individual, get involved in your community and more. Among their first year projects were delivering holiday gift bags to their neighbors.

## New Summer School Classes

More than 2,500 students register for MPSD's Summer School Program. This summer, classes were scheduled in three blocks, starting with three weeks of athletics courses, then enrichment courses and academies. This way, students can take advantage of more opportunities and participate in as many as they choose! Registration is closed, but you can call the Summer School office at 920-663-9891 year-round.



## Three Inducted into Athletic HOF

Lincoln alumni Jeff Wick (1993) and Troy Hegg (1992) and tennis coach Bob Feller were inducted into the Lincoln High Athletic Wall of Fame at halftime of the Jan. 25 boys' basketball game. Congratulations to the trio for all they have done for our Ships programs! Learn more about the inductees on Lincoln's school website under Athletics & Activities.

## MPSD Staff Award New Scholarships

Congratulations to Class of 2019 seniors Cheng Hang, Gwendolyn Olson, Alyssa Rodriguez and Arianna Wolske, the inaugural recipients of the new MPSD Employee Scholarship Program. MPSD staff funded four \$1,500 scholarships. These seniors demonstrated academic merit, school/community engagement and financial need.



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